

Russia rejects Peking call for border talks

Yesterday rejected China's conditions for talks on the two countries' border dispute. Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist Party said the Chinese proposals were "absolutely unacceptable".

Brezhnev was speaking in Ulan Bator at a marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Mongolian Republic. His rejection of the Chinese calls was supported by Mr Tsedenbal, the Mongolian Communist Party leader.

Terms unacceptable to Mr Brezhnev

Bator, Mongolia, Nov 26.—Brezhnev, the Soviet Party leader, today said Chinese conditions for talks to settle the border between the two sides had been rejected. He said the Chinese had withdrawn from disputed areas on the side of the frontier condition for serious negotiations. "It is quite obvious which a position is absolutely unacceptable and we will do it," he told a rally here marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Mongolian Republic.

During earlier Chinese calls for a package deal on troop disengagement and non-aggression pact, Mr Tsedenbal said Chinese words "divorced from their deeds".

Mr Yumzhangin, the Mongolian Communist Party leader, accused of great power chauvinism and expansionist aims. At present the Chinese Ambassador, Mr Chan Wei-wei, walked away.

Mr Chan was thus not able to hear Mr Brezhnev since the Kremlin's formalisation of the Chinese proposal in a greeting message Moscow on November 7.

Brezhnev's speech came after an anti-Soviet attack four days ago, China said the Russian Tsars through unequal treaties had seized Chinese territories in the nineteenth century, including areas where the Soviet cities of Vladivostok and Khabarovsk now stand.

Moscow, Nov 26.—The Soviet Union today officially informed China that its proposals "did not furnish foundations for an understanding".

The Chinese terms were rejected in a telegram sent by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers to the standing committee of the Chinese National People's Congress. The text was published by Tass. It said the Peking proposals contained nothing new.

It added that the Soviet Union supported the improvement of relations with China and suggested a non-aggression treaty be concluded so that "relations be developed in various spheres on a mutually advantageous basis".—Reuter.

Rating aid grant to rise by £2,000m

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced its largest rate support grant ever to local authorities, in terms of both size and proportion.

Mr Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, said that the result of this "generous settlement" should be an average rate increase of a quarter for domestic ratepayers next year, and a fifth for non-domestic ratepayers.

The local authority associations, which had heard the Government's decision at a meeting with Mr Crosland and other departmental ministers concerned with local government spending, welcomed the settlement, which was as large as they hoped and larger than they expected.

But they said afterwards that an average rate increase of a quarter would inevitably show great variations across the country. Some authorities would be able to keep their rate well below that level and others would have to levy perhaps an increase of a half.

Alderman L. Sherman, chairman of the London Boroughs Association, said that although London had been given a more generous weighting in the settlement than previously, ratepayers in the area would still face increases of between two fifths and a half.

The size of the grant, even though it is about £2,000m more than this year's, represents virtually a standstill in local government services. Inescapable commitments, such as schools being built, are an exception, but there may even be cuts in some services to keep the overall balance.

Mr Crosland said, after the meeting that the Government had agreed with the authorities on a total of about £3,100m at present prices as the level of accepted expenditure for 1975/76.

"This will allow a growth in real terms, discounting inflation, of some 4 per cent over the best estimate of actual local authority spending for the current year." This level of expenditure will mean that local authorities will need to restrain their rate of growth in 1975/76 to cover only inescapable commitments, for example the full-year cost of staff recruited this year, the running costs of new buildings, and the servicing of increased debt.

Mr Crosland said the rate of growth in local government spending would be about half of what had occurred in recent years. Local authorities had set him in no doubt that many desirable projects would not be deferred and standards over a wide field not improved.

In the present national economic crisis, it is only right that local authorities should restrain their expenditure.

The Government's grant for 1975/76 will be at the rate of 6.5 per cent, compared with last year's 6.05 per cent, and the total grant from the Government will amount to about £2,400m.

To offset the cost of inflation to local authorities for the present year, the Government is

Continued on page 2, col 6

orry drivers blockade exports

1 Sue Masterman

Hague, Nov 26

Demonstrating lorries drivers blockaded all the main roads leading out of the Netherlands, and are preventing exports from reaching the Dutch ports.

Some 2,400 lorries so far are involved in the blockade, which is also closing some of the main junctions in the Dutch internal railway network.

They threatened to continue the blockade until the Minister of Transport repeals a decree making the use of the meter, a kind of black box

for jettisonants, compulsory road tax for large lorries carrying valuable goods as from January 1. The Government said it has no intention of aling the decree.

Early today the Ministry of Transport announced, after

talks with the drivers and employers had broken down, that the Cabinet might order radical police action to break the blockade if the drivers did not respond to an appeal for reason.

The tachometer registers exactly what a lorry has done during its journey. It will be used to see if the drivers conform to the regulations preventing them from driving too long without stopping for a rest. Until now the only check has been the driver's workbook which he fills in himself and which gives no guarantee of accuracy.

Some transport firms are backing the strike. They have lent the drivers their lorries, and are paying them during the blockade. Others oppose it, and have appealed to the Government to stand firm.

China tells US to cut Taiwan link

na gave a broad hint to the United States yesterday that it was time America drew its recognition of the Taiwan line. Mr Teng Hsiao-ping, a Chinese army Prime Minister, told Dr Henry Kissinger, the United States Secretary of State, who is visiting Peking, that it would be a good thing if their talks could be held Washington as well as Peking. Members of the Chinese leadership have refused to let Washington while Taiwan has an embassy there.

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Sidney Greene, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaysmen, has been appointed a director of Times Newspapers, Ltd. He succeeds Lord Shawcross as one of four national directors appointed to safeguard the independence of The Times and The Sunday Times.

Kurds deny their leader is dead

Rumours that General Barzani, leader of the Kurdish rebels in Iraq, had died in an Iranian hospital were categorically denied in London last night. The spokesman of the Kurdistan Democratic Party said he had been in touch with headquarters in northern Iraq. General Barzani was alive and well and was directing operations there.

Feature on Kurds, page 7

Labour conference: AUEW decision to drop support for two pro-EEC members of the NEC heralded determined push by anti-Europeans

Teachers' strike: Schools in Scotland were closed to about 300,000 pupils yesterday as militant action widened

Fugitive: Police intensified their hunt for Mr Kenneth Littlejohn after a man claiming to be the bank robber telephoned a lawyer

Geneva: United Nations employees plan a half-day strike, the first in the history of the world body, in a pay demand

Self-employed: Commons attempt to remove provisions for higher national insurance contributions from Social Security Amendment Bill fails

Finding the Facts: Two-page Special Report on storage of information, and retrieval systems

Letters: On the Ulster situation

Obituary, page 18

Mr Cyril Connolly; Mr Alfred Barnes

Sport, pages 12 and 13

Cricket: MCC win one-day match

West Indies in sight of victory

against India; Rugby Union:

Prospects for Wales XV v All Blacks match; Racing: Ascot, Haydock Park and Ludlow prospects; Tennis: South African Open

Features, pages 7 and 16

Ruth Miller meets Lady Medawar,

of the Margaret Pyke Centre, the world's busiest family planning clinic

Pearce Wright relates how Britain fell behind in the nuclear arms race

David Spangler on the protest

at the EEC summit on the Paris

next month; Bernard Levin

"swears by the famous Levinsky"

that he cannot tell all

Diary: The fat and gristle-free

American hamburger is finally

found in Woolworths

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Mr Nigel Lawson, MP, and others

the crisis in the stock market

Mr Lewis G. Whyte

Leading articles: The Jenkins Bill; Mr Tanaka's resignation

Arts, page 9

David Robinson on the Chicago

Film Festival; Irving Warder on a thoughtful play about violence

Business News, page 19-26

Stock market: There was a technical rally in equities but gilt

remain unsupported. The FT

index closed 5.4 up at 170.0

Financial Editor: The burden of

borrowings at J. Lyons; importance of final quarter to House of

Fraser

Business features: British Caledonian's case for retention as a

second class airline, by Arthur Reed

The second of Leonard

Arvey's two articles on agricultural

planning

Business Diary: The new Secretary

to the Price Commission; ITT's

literary image

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HOME NEWS

Moves to speed anti-IRA Bill

By Geoffrey Smith
Political Staff

Moves were afoot at Westminster yesterday to prevent the growing pressure for the restoration of capital punishment from impeding the speedy passage through Parliament of the Home Secretary's emergency legislation to combat terrorism. The Government hopes the Bill will go through all its stages by tomorrow night.

Members of all parties are aware through their postbags of the force of public opinion, and there are three motions on the order paper that respond to that demand.

One, which has been tabled by Mr Ian Percival, QC, Conservative MP for Southport, and has attracted the support of about 160 MPs, including some Ulster Unionists, calls in effect for an early debate on the subject before Christmas if possible.

Five Labour MPs, Mr Brian Walden, Mr Richard Crawshaw, Mr John Lee, Mr Raphael Tuck and Mr Andrew Faulds, support the Percival motion.

Another motion, tabled by Mr Robert Banks, Conservative MP for Harrogate, which has about 80 signatories, calls for the introduction of capital punishment for those convicted of planting bombs and causing death thereby. Among its supporters are three Conservative MPs, Mr Keith Speed, Mr Ronald Bell, QC, and Mr Peter Fry, who voted for the abolition of capital punishment when the substantive decision was taken in December 1969.

Death and fog in a Belfast street

From Robert Fisk
Belfast

None of the neighbours seemed to know who he was. In Duncain Gardens last night, with thick fog drifting past the headlights of the parked police Land Rover, a Roman Catholic woman in a doorway eight yards away said she knew the dead man was a Protestant.

Another woman, slightly younger, with brown hair in curlers, walked up to the dead man's antique shop. "Tommy's dead," she said. Then she told her friends at the street corner that his daughter was there when he was shot, as if she were retelling the story of the play.

Even the police were not sure how many men had entered the shop, although a salesman in the carpet store over the road said he heard three pistol shots. "When I got there he was lying on the floor in the back room," he said. "There wasn't any blood and he was face down, but I could see he had been shot in the side. He must have been just closing the shop."

A huddle of relatives turned up and were ushered inside the door with "bric-a-brac" written above it.

A policeman, a tall detective superintendent in a brown sports jacket and a pork-pie hat, was standing at the door. He said he did not know how many times the man had been shot.

Yesterday evening's murder, at 12 minutes past four, was the eleventh in five days. The police named the dead man as Mr Thomas Hamilton, aged 34, the owner of the antique shop. He was married with two daughters, aged eight and 11.

In slightly more austere surroundings, Mr Rees, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, had earlier issued a statement from Stormont Castle promising more intensive security checks in Belfast. He said that since September 16, 43 people had been arrested in possession of guns in vehicles (he gave no details of any convictions), and added that there was little doubt that without these arrests more assassinations would have taken place.

Fire bomb charge: Michael Joseph Murray, aged 38, an Irish labourer, who has lived in Birmingham for 20 years, was charged last night with planting a fire bomb in the city in July and will appear in court today.

Boy says he attacked man after homosexual advance

A boy, aged 16, accused of murder told a jury at Leeds Crown Court yesterday that he got angry with an old man because he made a homosexual advance to him. He admitted striking the man, but said: "I never intended to kill him."

The boy, of Bradford, has pleaded not guilty to the murder of Mr Herbert Holroyd, aged 78, who lived in an old people's flat at Ringwood Road, Bradford.

Mr David Savill, QC, for prosecution, has alleged that the boy beat up, stabbed and strangled Mr Holroyd when he was lying in bed because he would not give him money.

In evidence, the boy said he first got to know Mr Holroyd in April and used to tidy up his flat. On June 24 he went round to the flat with his cousin, who later went home alone.

He said Mr Holroyd asked him if he had ever had a sexual



Post Office workers sealing a pillar-box in Fleet Street, London, yesterday as a precaution against bomb attacks.

Many MPs in the present House had not been elected yet.

An amendment to this motion was put down last night by Sir Frederic Bennett, Conservative MP for Torbay, to the effect that the present treason laws should be applied in the meantime so that terrorists would be liable to the death penalty.

The third motion, tabled by Dr A. Glynn, Conservative MP for Windsor and Maidenhead, and supported by Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the 1922 Committee, and other former ministers, calls for "acts of terrorism which could result in death or serious injury" to be subject to the death penalty. That motion has attracted about 50 signatures.

Whether it would be possible to move an amendment to the Emergency Powers Bill calling

for the restoration of capital punishment is uncertain. It would have to be considered by the Speaker to be within the terms of the long title.

There are reasons for believing that the terms may be drawn stringently with a view to limiting the scope for amendments which, whatever the intention, would have the effect of delaying legislation regarded as urgent on both sides of the House.

But if no date has been fixed for a separate debate on capital punishment, there is no doubt that an attempt to move such an amendment will be made.

That is why discussions have been held between the two parties with a view to an announcement of a date before Parliament considers the second reading of the Bill tomorrow.

No decision has yet been made, mainly, it would seem, because Mr Jenkins was unwell made for the prevention of terrorism, which could then be debated before the Bill itself reached the Lords.

At the end of that debate the Lords would, if necessary, adjourn until the Bill was received from the Commons. The purpose would be to enable the main debate on the Bill to be held in advance, so that voting on it could proceed swiftly once it had arrived in the Lords.

Mr Orme, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, replying last night to criticisms of Mr Jenkins' Bill from the Tribune group, said that British withdrawal from Ulster would leave the six counties under "the complete and utter control of one section of the Northern Ireland community". What would follow in the province "would make our Bill look like just nonsense".

Leading article, page 17

Petrol attack on Irishman's home

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

Five days after the public house bombings, Birmingham's city centre had established itself yesterday on a full and indefinite emergency footing to try to restore a climate of confidence for the public.

Public-house staff already searching customers will get a printed safety code from their brewery next week, which customers will be expected to obey.

A mindless and happily ineffective revenge attack with a petrol bomb on the house of an Irish family in the city during the night served as a reminder that a reverse traffic in violence is still not under control in spite of constant appeals from the authorities.

The attack was on the home of Mr Thomas Burnside, a British Legion worker, who lives at Ferry Bar. It was hurled into a room in which his four children were sleeping. Although the bed and curtains were set on fire the children were rescued unjured.

Mr Burnside, who came from Northern Ireland eight years ago, said: "I have absolutely no

connexion with politics but I think all people who originate from Ulster should take this as a warning. However innocent they may be, they can become the target for reprisals by a few people who are out of their minds."

Mr Maurice Buck, Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) of the West Midlands who has led the hunt for terrorists in the past 15 months, said yesterday that the Irish population in Birmingham was as appalled as anyone else about last week's bombings. He added: "I hope we do not have a backlash against them. They are citizens who in the normal course of events play their full part in the city's life."

Mr Buck said in a television interview that the police had now developed an expertise in forensic science and intelligence work. There were officers steeped in the Irish question who were able to understand the mentality of the people they were up against.

He felt that the proposed government anti-terrorist legislation, which he thought the public would accept as a temporary but necessary inconvenience, would greatly assist the police in many ways.

Court told of 'sweet revenge' letter

From Our Correspondent
Winchester

Mrs Louise Davey, a former "captain" in the Ulster Defence Association, said at Winchester Crown Court yesterday that she had sent the UDA a letter that included the words "the sweetest thing in the world is revenge".

Mrs Davey, of Uphill Cottages, Ivybridge, near Plymouth, was giving evidence at the trial of three alleged UDA members who have pleaded not guilty to conspiring to smuggle arms and explosives from Canada to Southampton in the container ship Dart Americas.

They are Roy Rogers Forbes, aged 26, a law student and former Leeds councillor; of Derwent Water Terrace, Headingley, Leeds; John William Griffiths, aged 49, a contract cleaner of Linton Road, Birstall, Leeds; and John Gadd, aged 26, a work-study engineer of Old Garston Road, Liverpool.

Mrs Davey, recalled yesterday to give further evidence, said she had fled to England from Northern Ireland for fear of reprisals.

Questioned about a letter she had received from Mr Gadd, she said it began "Dear Sister McGregor" and explained that everyone in the UDA used another name. The letter referred

to a visit by Mr Gadd and a man alleged to be the supreme commander of the UDA in England to her home in Devon.

Cross-examined by Mr Michael Maguire, QC, for Mr Gadd, Mrs Davey said she had asked her daughter to write a letter to the UDA in October, 1972. In it she said: "I have suffered four times from petrol bombs". She said she had been convicted and bound over for beating up a woman whose husband was in the IRA.

"I thought I was going to get help from the Rev Ian Paisley and William Craig. But I have found out that they are just as big murderers as anyone" Mrs Davey said.

Backlog of serious crime cases cut

By Our Legal Correspondent

There has been a startling improvement in clearing up the backlog of serious criminal cases waiting to come to trial in London, Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, said in London yesterday. Only 13 months ago, he said, 2,300 defendants were awaiting trial in the Crown Courts in Inner London, the area with the worst backlog in England and Wales. The latest statistics, for September, 1974, showed that for the first time the total was below a thousand.

Speaking at the opening of a new complex of five Crown Courts in St Pancras, north-east London, Lord Widgery said that in dealing with the crime boom the courts were "if not quite round the corner, at least about to turn it."

The new complex is in an existing Victorian building which formerly housed a school for orphans, the Royal Wanstead School, which was closed in 1971. For cognoscenti of legal history, yesterday provided an important "first" a Lord Chief Justice of England sitting, in the same case, with two lay magistrates. Since the Courts Act, 1971, judges and

magistrates have often sat together in the Crown Courts, but no Lord Chief Justice had done so before.

Less litigation: The British are becoming less litigious, figures released yesterday in the annual Civil Judicial Statistics show.

Civil litigation, measured as a proportion of the population aged between 15 and 64, decreased by 5 per cent in 1973 compared with the previous year.

The decrease was mainly the result of nearly 8 per cent fewer civil cases dealt with by the county courts.

Today

Sun rises : Sun sets :

7.36 am 5.58 pm

Moon sets : Moon rises :

5.55 am 2.30 pm

Full Moon : November 29,

Lighting up : 4.28 pm to 7.9 pm.

High water : London Bridge, 11.48 am, 6.4m (21.0ft). Avonmouth, 5.7 am, 11.7m (38.3ft); 5.33 pm, 12.0m (39.3ft). Dover, 9.8 am, 6.6m (19.8ft); 9.37 pm, 6.1m (19.9ft).

Hull, 3.53 am, 6.6m (21.5ft); 4.30 pm, 6.0m (22.2ft). Liverpool, 9.20 am, 7.8m (25.7ft); 9.35 pm, 8.0m (26.4ft).

A small depression will move away SE over the Continent.

Area forecast : E SW, central N England, East Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales: Mainly dry, sunny intervals; wind variable, light, becoming SW, moderate; max temp 8°C (46°F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh, E Scotland, Aberdeen: Bright at first, becoming cloudy with occasional rain and hill fog patches; wind SW, moderate, becoming fresh, strong locally; max temp 8°C (46°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Changeable, rain or showers in most places, bright intervals; temp rather below normal.

Yesterday

London : Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 5°C (41°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 2°C (35°F). Humidity, 6 pm, Sun, 42%; 6 pm to 6 am, 16%; 6 pm, 64%. Wind: 5 mph, 1.003.0 mbars rising.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MUDDY : c, cloud ; d, drizzle ; t, tem-

perature.

WEATHER PRESSURE is shown in millibars FRONTs Warm Cold Occluded Symbols are an advancing edge

SW NW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Moray, Fife, Strathclyde, Northern Ireland: Cloudy, rain at times, hill fog patches; becoming brighter with scattered showers; wind SW, moderate or fresh, strong locally; max temp 8°C (46°F).

Northern Ireland: Cloudy, rain at times, hill fog patches; becoming brighter with scattered showers; wind SW, moderate or fresh, strong locally; max temp 8°C (46°F).

Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh, E Scotland, Aberdeen: Bright at first, becoming cloudy with occasional rain and hill fog patches; wind SW, moderate, becoming fresh, strong locally; max temp 8°C (46°F).

Midlands, S Wales, Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Lancashire, West Coast, Northumbria: Bright, becoming cloudy with scattered showers; wind SW, moderate or fresh, strong locally; max temp 8°C (46°F).

East Anglia, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire: Bright, becoming cloudy with scattered showers; wind SW, moderate or fresh, strong locally; max temp 8°C (46°F).

South East: Bright, becoming cloudy with scattered showers; wind SW, moderate or fresh, strong locally; max temp 8°C (46°F).

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WEATHER PRESSURE is shown in millibars FRONTs Warm Cold Occluded Symbols are an advancing edge

London : Temp: max, 6

ME NEWS.

£100,000 in college places ended by minister

Devlin
in Correspondent

Crowther-Hunt, Minister in charge of education, yesterday said a cut of at least 75,000 full-time and part-time students at universities and polytechnics in 1981.

Speaking to a conference at the Festival Hall, organized by the North London Polytechnic, Mr Prentice, Secretary of State for Education, told MPs that the set in 1972, was too low regarded 640,000 best revised estimate.

Crowther-Hunt said government remained fully committed to the Robbins principle of providing enough courses.

In October 1973, there were students in higher education who would expand by a third over the next five years. This was "a very bold move in the light of our difficulties".

Lord Crowther added, 50,000 more places than was estimated by the Robbins committee.

By 1981 the proportion of old students entering higher education will be 17 per cent, compared with 14 per cent in 1973.

More than a third of students aged 18 to 20 age group were in courses of further and higher education.

Announced that the Government was reviewing students' aid in an attempt to remove

minor anomalies. Those are understood to concern students qualifying for hardship grants, or on field study courses, and many students on medical courses.

Mr Kenneth Forecast, director of statistics at the Department of Education and Science, told the conference that he suspected that many boys had been enticed away from school after the age of 16 by an increase in job vacancies for apprentices, which the raising of the leaving age had created.

Mr John Pratt, acting director of the centre for institutional studies at the North East London Polytechnic, criticized the Government for basing policies on what might be faulty projections of the birth rate and demand. Such projections only contributed to a falling-off in demand, he said.

It was up to the universities, colleges and local authorities to attract students by meeting their demands. Thus they would determine their own statistics rather than allowing numbers to be determined for them.

About half the students at universities and polytechnics have to get help with personal difficulties, Dr N. Malleon, of the University of London's central institution health service, told the conference. But students in higher education were much more healthy psychologically than the average member of the public, with about one in 50 needing mental health treatment as compared with the national average of one in nine.

Personal difficulties contributed to a wastage rate of 16.8 per cent at universities, 22 per cent in the technological faculties.

Procedure talks quit

Inst minister

private hearing at Manchester County Court yesterday between Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, and William Swan, a Manchester businessman, discussed the legal procedure in a summons taken out against Harry Kushner, the lawyer, in connection with a court case against the minister. Mr Swan, aged 36, of Mobberley, Cheshire, is claiming £674,000, being the balance due on 1st July for a Clarkson's in Antigua. He says he because of a Commons statement by Mr Benn that Line would be "safe". Neither the minister nor Mr Swan was in court. Mr Ruslyn Harris, Mr Swan's solicitor, his department applied for an order for Mr Swan to supply details of where and when the statements were made.

Minister backs criticism of butter tokens

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Mr O'Malley, Minister of State for Social Security, said in London yesterday that he shared the "deep resentment" of many pensioners at the restriction of butter tokens to the poorest. That was why the Government had introduced beef tokens for all pensioners.

Mr O'Malley was speaking at a conference convened by Age Concern to consider the place of the old in modern society. A report published by the organization showed that many pensioners were opposed to butter tokens and other hand-outs.

Mr O'Malley said he understood and shared the resentment of pensioners at the way butter tokens had been introduced by the Conservative Government. They indicated to everyone in a grocer's shop that the pensioner presenting it was on supplementary benefit.

Call for access to battered babies

John Chartres, a psychiatrist at Manchester University, told an audience that the number of battered babies in Britain, a psychiatric conference on the subject in Manchester yesterday.

Sydney Brandon, reader in psychiatry at Manchester University, told an audience that the number of battered babies in Britain, a psychiatric conference, organized by the North Western Regional Authority, was one of a kind throughout Britain. In the Maria Colwell case and a background of an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 children by their parents. In every year, some 400 of these with permanent brain damage.

S borrow more surgeries

£2,617,000 lent by the Medical Practice Finance Corporation to doctors last year is the greatest increase in the number of acquiring and improving practice premises, the report of the corporation (our Medical Reporter) total of 230 loans to 428 compares with the for the previous year of 300 to 440 doctors for 400.

her and child trashed in

unemployed man went to the child's home and his son aged eight months and barricaded himself in with the child on Monday. The door had to be broken down to remove him. Michael Joseph O'Loughlin, 34, of 10, Park Avenue, Euston, was over to keep the peace.

freighter in port

Asiafreighter arrived in Falmouth Bay, Cornwall, yesterday, the cargo hold having purged of the poisonous gas which 10 days ago killed 17 of the crew in hospital.

Girl 'bought petrol to burn body of man'

From Our Correspondent

A girl, aged 18, was sent to buy petrol to burn the body of a man killed by her lover, a court was told yesterday. Then Kenneth Christopher Raisin, aged 35, burnt the body in his garden, Mr Charles McCullough, QC, for the prosecution, said.

He told Nottingham Crown Court that Mr Raisin and Miss Carol England went as lodgers at £5 a week with Mr Gregory Homiak, aged 55, a Polish Ukrainian, of Carter Lane East, South Normanton, Derbyshire, after his wife left him in April 1973.

Mr McCullough said that in November last year Mr Raisin killed Mr Homiak, a bakery worker, with an axe in his living room. Afterwards Miss England was sent to buy wallpaper to repaper part of the room marked by bloodstains.

After burning the body, Raisin drove to a wood near Derby crematorium and buried it. Only three small bones from the left foot were found.

Mr McCullough said Mr Raisin profited from the killing. Miss England was sent to draw Mr Homiak's disability allowance of £5.12. She also went twice to the bakery where he had worked and, saying she was his daughter, was given first £15.64 and then £18.3.

Mr Homiak's daughter, Irene, arrived to spend Christmas with her father and stayed in the house. Mr Raisin told her that her father was with friends.

Mr McCullough added that Mr Raisin reported Mr Homiak missing and Miss England finally found the burden of what she knew too much. She went to the police.

Mr Raisin, of Charnwood Street, Derby, was said to have told the police, "It happened in a blind flash. I might have got the impression he was coming at me with a knife." He pleaded not guilty to murdering Mr Homiak. The case continues today.

Court praise for attacked child

A girl of seven was praised in court yesterday for great presence of mind in feigning unconsciousness when a man who took her away in his car squeezed her throat. He pushed her out and she escaped.

Kenneth Gilmour, aged 25, of Kensey Road, Annan, Dumfriesshire, was sentenced at the High Court in Dumfries to 10 years' imprisonment after pleading guilty to abducting the girl with intent to commit a sexual offence, indecently assaulting her, compressing her throat, throwing her into nettles and abandoning her, to the danger of her life.

Dr Brandon said that once suspicion was aroused that a child had been injured in its home all the organizations concerned should come together immediately. Then an individual must be appointed to coordinate activities.

He also suggested that a much greater emphasis should be put on the welfare of the child rather than to the future integrity of the family. There should be more readiness to accept the need for permanent care orders in cases where repetitions of attacks were likely if the child was allowed to return to its parents.

The conflict between social workers who emphasized the maintenance of family integrity and others who felt that the safety of the child should come first was a recurring theme in much of the formal and informal discussion at the conference.

Dr Brandon pointed out that the largest of the five groups of parents liable to assault their children were "vulnerable women under stress" who had the common characteristic of deep regret for the injuries they had inflicted. Many in the group

would use such phrases as "when I hit him I then pick him up and cuddle him".

The other four groups of potential batterers were true sadists, the smallest group of all, who obtained relief from their own tensions by inflicting pain on others; disorganized families in which violence pervaded every aspect of their lives; those who were liable to explosions of violence, usually precipitated by the behaviour of their children; and those with hysterical traits whose safety valve, if abnormal, was an act of violence followed by one of fleeing from the scene, probably abandoning their child in a shop.

Dr Frank Bamford, senior lecturer in community paediatrics at Manchester University, warned all the groups likely to be involved in child-battering cases to use extreme caution before making accusations.

He gave examples of children whose physical conditions might suffer from such conditions as haemophilia causing bruising symptoms by quite minor impacts, others with fragile bones and even a very small group who had a total indifference to pain.

Dr Brandon said that once

of assaulting Miss Susan Carr, aged 19, on his boat. The colonel was awarded £1 damages and each side must pay its own costs.

A spokesman for the Law Society said yesterday: "We are looking at the facts of the case, as we always do, but what action will be taken depends entirely on what conclusion comes from those facts."

Kensington and Chelsea Council said yesterday that Mrs B. Sundius-Smith, chairman of the social services committee, is to seek an early meeting with Colonel Brooks to discuss his future as chairman of the visiting subcommittee to two children's homes. Girls up to the age of 16 live at the homes.

Rail catering staff strike

Inter-City trains on Eastern Region will be without catering services today because of a one-day strike by restaurant-car staff. Services between King's Cross and Scotland, the North-east, the trans-Pennine and those between Tyne-side and south-west England will be affected.

The strike, which is unofficial, is over a recent pay organization agreement. Some services may be affected tomorrow.

Rating accused of girl's murder

A naval rating will appear before Sheriff Gordon Shiach at Dunfermline today, charged with the murder of Miss Catherine Phillips, of Kirkcaldy, whose body was found near the main gate of Rosyth dockyard a week ago.

The British anti-submarine frigate Rhyd broke off from a Nato exercise and steamed to Kirkwall, where the rating was taken off in custody and flown to Dyce.

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Quick Gate Check-In. Makes a European Superflight faster on the ground.

If you're off to Europe on business from Heathrow and you've no heavy baggage, speed straight from your car through passport control and security...

...don't check in till you get to the departure gate.



British airways
We'll take more care of you.

HOME NEWS

Third of all Scottish pupils kept from school as thousands of teachers join strike over pay

From Ronald Faux

Edinburgh

Schools in Scotland were closed to about 300,000 pupils yesterday, because of the teachers' strike, which had widened to affect a third of all the schoolchildren in Scotland. At least 10,000 teachers, members of various professional organizations, refused to work.

The Educational Institute of Scotland, the largest of the organizations, said that more than two thousand of its members had been called out at 131 schools and four colleges of education in select areas. The institute wants a guarantee of an interim pay award of £10 a week, which would ensure a December wage of £300. The

Government has refused to say exactly what the award will be.

The Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association called out its 7,000 members on a one-day strike, the first strike in the association's 30 years of existence. It said it was protesting about the way the Government handled the matter of teachers' pay.

The unofficial East of Scotland Teachers' Action Committee continued its campaign for an interim rise of £15 a week. About 60 schools have been closed or seriously affected by the campaign this week.

The EIS said yesterday it is expected to hear next Monday from Mr Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland, about the size of the interim award. Mr

Raymond Thomasson, deputy general secretary, said the institute understood that Lord Houghton would tell Mr Ross the size of the award during the weekend.

It was expected that the secretary of state would then inform the national negotiating body, the Scottish Teachers' Salaries Committee, on Monday. The committee's negotiating subcommittee would meet the next day, with its deliberations being considered later on Tuesday by the institute's executive.

Mr Thomasson said that if agreement was not reached on Tuesday there might be a stoppage by all the institute's 30,000 members and withdrawal of co-operation in the training of student teachers.

Fears for in-service training plans

By Our Education Correspondent

Fears that the Government will abandon plans for in-service teacher training and special courses for new teachers were expressed last night by Mr Max Morris, immediate past president of the National Union of Teachers.

"The Department of Education and Science is hovering very deliberately over the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Training of Teachers like the angel of death, spreading its wings to create an atmosphere of despondency," he said.

Rulings today on law in 'Last Tango' case

Mr Justice Kenneth Jones will give his rulings on the law in the *Last Tango* in Paris obscenity trial today when the case resumes at the Central Criminal Court.

For the past day and a half Mr Jeremy Hutchinson, QC, for United Artists Corporation, the distributor, and Mr Robert Harman, QC, for the prosecution, have been making submissions on the law in the absence of the jury.

The prosecution, brought privately by Mr Edward Shackleton, aged 69, a retired Salvation Army officer of Highworth, near Swindon, alleges that the film is obscene because of the sadistic approach to sex by the leading character.

Inquiry doctor attacked

Dr Robert Allen, aged 60, who was a witness at an inquiry into Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals earlier this year, was hit and scratched by a man on Monday night as he was getting into his car.

He said yesterday at his home in Moore, Cheshire: "I am satisfied the attack was connected with the RSPCA business." He received a telephone death threat after giving evidence at the inquiry.

Gas blast injures 12

Twelve people, including several children, were taken to hospital with minor injuries yesterday after a gas explosion in a house in Meadow Lane, Nottingham.

Judge warns jury not to be swayed by violence

At Durham Crown Court yesterday Mr Justice Caulfield told a jury trying three men accused of murdering an army camp commandant that society faced disintegration if the nation ever retreated from the rule of law.

In the trial, three men, Sean O'Conaill, aged 41, an hotel porter, of Subgrave Road, Washington, co Durham, Raymond Kane, aged 35, an hotel porter of Stapleton Road, Bristol, and Barry Reid, aged 25, of Brierley Gardens, Otterburn, Northumberland, have denied murdering Lieutenant-Colonel John Steven, commanding officer of Otterburn training camp, on April 8.

Starting his summing-up on the eleventh day of the trial, the judge said: "It would be absolutely unreal for us to pretend that this country is not in a state of turmoil."

In this trial there has been constant mention of a violent organization called the IRA.

With this background that we all have and we all must endure, it could be difficult for a jury to be absolutely dispassionate in today.

The judge said: "I would be absolutely unreal for us to pretend that this country is not in a state of turmoil."

Mr Reid would be innocent if it was true that he went along out of ignorance, as a spectator.

The summing-up will continue today.

Chairman wins Liberal ballot

Mr Kenneth Vaus, chairman of the Liberal Party, was last night declared winner in the annual ballot for eight party council seats on the Liberal national executive committee (our Political Staff writes).

Others elected were Mr Cyril Carr, Mr Gordon Lishman, Mr Roger Pincham, Mr Peter Hain, Mrs Joyce Rose, Mr Bernard Greaves and Mr Robin Otter.

Another bishop refuses rise

The Bishop of London, the Right Rev G A Ellison, has asked the Church Commissioners to pay a £475 increase on his £6,526 a year stipend into the fund from which his parish clergy are paid, because of the general economic situation.

A few days ago, the Bishop of Wakefield, Dr Eric Treacy, asked for his £300 rise to be paid into his diocesan stipends fund.

Judge Goodall said the property matter would be dealt with later in chambers. He ordered the case to proceed.

In evidence, Mrs Littlejohn, aged 31, said she had lived with her husband for three years during their 13-year marriage.

She lives in a terraced house in Torquay, the subject of the property order.

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COMING EUROPE

French told they have power to overcome their economic crisis

Charles Hargrove
Nov 26
President Giscard d'Estaing, broadcast tonight, said that he had the power to overcome his economic difficulties. He was not "in a period of crisis or greater depression" but one could fear a massive increase in production.

At the end of the effort to overcome present problems, there would be a resumption of economic development of some kind. He would in future tell the people regularly month in order to explain Government's policies, a task he had inaugurated this year as Finance minister.

The broadcast was essentially tied to an analysis of the economic and social situation "which difficulties", he said, "part of a world problem". Loss for France of 35,000m (£3,181m) through the oil price was something one had the power to cancel because it takes place outside frontiers.

He admitted that in so far as these external factors were the "weaknesses inadequacies of the French economy" which did not react seriously as others.

The objective for 1975 was a further development of production.

The Government had the power to do so, because it had

needs "your needs", to meet, and also because it had an instrument in the shape of public finances.

"whose situation is at present one of the most favourable in Europe, and will enable it, at the chosen moment, to put into operation support measures". This was a hint that if the pressure of restriction became too great it would be relaxed.

"The Government is, contrary to what you are told, at no one's orders, and at the service of no one. But it has the power to facilitate the action of those it employs, of those who work, and who produce."

Referring to the motor industry which was one of the most seriously hit, he said that the Government would take unprecedented steps to help its reorganization, to enable it to overcome the shock of the present slow-down.

He had a special word of comfort for medium and small firms which have been feeling the pinch most acutely. In store for them was "the resumption of French economic development which will give them their confidence".

But it was natural, with severe unemployment threatening, that he should go out of his way to reassure the workers.

Tomorrow's Cabinet, he promised, would adopt additional measures in favour of redundant workers.

resident's methods of work are criticized

Our Own Correspondent
Nov 26
distinct slump in the popularity of President Giscard d'Estaing and his Government shown by the latest publication poll in *Le Figaro* yesterday and there is increasing criticism of his statesmanship and lack of work.

For weeks past *Le Figaro Enchainé*, the satirical weekly, has been suggesting that head of state is not too keen on hard work. Today the authoritative voice of *Le Monde* echoes these suggestions, and analyses personal method of government critically and in detail.

It refers to the talk common in political lobbies and Paris salons of the apparent "absence" of Giscard d'Estaing from the political scene—and notes that same criticism was levelled against M Pompouy in his time.

M Giscard d'Estaing, it says, regards the presidency as a job not as a mission, and wishes to continue to lead his private life as he pleases, which explains his disappearances at weekends and the fact that his personal staff seldom know where he is.

The newspaper refers primarily to "several incidents", including a collision between a car driven by the President and a milk lorry at an early hour in the morning. *Le Canard Enchaîné*, less cautiously, has made play of the President's private life.

According to *Le Monde*, the President dislikes "thick files and prolonged audiences", and prefers personal conversations, often on the telephone, or im-

promptu visits. He likes to improvise, and does so well, this enables him to escape from "bureaucratic restraints".

He does not read the press summaries prepared for him, but prefers to glance through the papers himself. His presidential staff is much smaller than President Pompouy's—17 instead of 27—and he does not want it to act as a kind of supergovernment, but as a smaller group to throw out ideas.

Since the presidential elections, one of his advisers is quoted as saying: "M Giscard d'Estaing feels he is the only guardian of the truth. Another believes he has a certain disdain for officials, preferring the aristocracy (a reference to some of his private friendships).

M Giscard d'Estaing, *Le Monde* goes on, enjoys the "solitary exercise of power" which he condemned in General de Gaulle seven years ago, when he was in the political wilderness after losing the Finance Ministry.

He regards the present economic crisis as due to natural or uncontrollable external factors, so that he does not regard the situation as in any way impulsive to his government. He is therefore inclined to wait until the equilibria which are today upset are restored by the impact of other events, largely unpredictable".

Le Monde concludes: "What is involved is not the coldness of the technocrat. What is held against the head of state and not without reason, is well and truly his refusal to consider the political dimensions of the problem."

Abortion Bill is resented by French MPs

Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 26

Mme Simone Veil, the Minister of Health, today told the National Assembly that France will no longer "continue to close its eyes" to 300,000 women having abortions every year outside the law.

She was introducing the Government Bill to liberalize anti-abortion laws. It proposes to legalize abortion with medical approval, in the first 11 weeks of pregnancy. The operation would not be covered by the national health insurance. But any woman genuinely unable to pay would benefit from social assistance.

More than 70 amendments have been put down and 40 accepted, most of them from the Government ranks, are due to speak during three-day debate. The Government has made the issue a free vote of conscience.

Strike on French television spreads to provinces

Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 26

Striking journalists and technicians today occupied the news studio and managerial offices of the French second television channel in protest at the plan to dismiss 260 of the 3,800 journalists employed full-time on the broadcasting service ORTF.

The news programme was stopped, adding to the disruption of radio and television programmes in the past 24 hours. Police were called in to clear the offices about an hour later, shouting by the demonstrators "We belong here, not you". The strike, which began in Paris yesterday, spread without warning today to regional stations. In Marseilles, for instance, journalists announced that they would provide no services until further notice. They claimed in a statement that in the regions two union delegations out of every three had been included in those earmarked for dismissal.

Their claim was underlined by the executive board of the national journalists' union, which declared: "The Govern-

ment is indulging in an operation of repression of union activity. Many union militants, members of works committees, editorial delegates appear in large numbers among the castaways. The national executive of the union wholeheartedly backs the threatened fellow journalists of the ORTF and calls on the whole profession to demonstrate its support in a form to be decided."

This could well mean that the newspaper journalists will join the strike.

The broadcasting strike began yesterday afternoon, when plans were announced for staffing the six autonomous companies, which are to replace the ORTF in the new year. It had been expected that the reorganization would involve some pruning, but such drastic action came as a bitter surprise.

The 260, for whom no jobs are available, were invited to make claims for employment in writing, but it was not thought that more than 20 or 30 would be spared the axe. The pruning is likely to be even more severe among the 1,100 part-time stringers of the ORTF.

Both Mafia and Fascists suspected of seizing increasing number of people for ransom

From Patricia Clough
Rome, Nov 26

The present wave of kidnappings in Italy—at one point last week 10 people were being held simultaneously for ransom—has created as much alarm and as many problems as the earlier defiance of the state.

Kidnapping has become in the past two years a huge industry which, according to one calculation, has brought in some 30,000m lire (about £20m).—

The sense of alarm and insecurity which the kidnappers have created is not limited to millionaires. After the seizure of the owner of a car showroom and the daughter, aged 11, of a jeweller salesman, even the moderately well-off are beginning to fear for themselves and for their children.

Some people are reported to be buying pistols and seeking permission to carry arms. Others are hiring bodyguards, or seeking insurance.

The kidnappers pose many unanswered questions. Why is this particular form of crime flourishing in Italy? Is it sheer chance that the latest spate of kidnappings coincided with one of the longest and most difficult government crises since the war? Are the cases unrelated or part of an organized plan? Just what the kidnappers want?

One theory is that some, at least, of the kidnappers are yet another fascist plot to undermine confidence in the state and create a demand for a

strong "law and order" government.

Mafia gangs have extorted huge ransoms particularly in northern Italy in the past and investigations have led to the arrest of Signor Luciano Liggio, an alleged Mafia leader.

Still others feel that the kidnapping industry is flourishing simply because it is now possible to extract vast sums of money at very small risk.

Figures presented recently by Dr Elio Zanda Loy, the national police chief, show that out of 290 people arrested or charged, in connexion with kidnappings in the past four years, few have yet come before a court. Some have actually been set free again.

Our Milan Correspondent writes: While a Padua court began the first kidnapping trial using the new procedures, under which stiffer penalties up to 25 years' jail—and a speedier hearing are promised, the offence showed little sign of abating.

In the neighbouring town of Verona, Signora Maria Mellone, aged 20, the daughter of a wealthy businessman, was kidnapped yesterday. When she failed to return after visiting a friend last night her family reported her disappearance to the police.

Later her car was found on the road and her captors in a telephone call to the family asked for a 400m lire (£260,000) ransom. According to unconfirmed reports the ransom was paid today.

UN staff plan first pay protest strike

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Nov 26

Most of the 7,000 international civil servants employed by the United Nations and its specialized agencies here are expected to be on strike on Friday morning, in support of demands for higher pay—particularly for pensioners, hardest hit of all by inflation and currency depreciation.

This half-day strike, described as the first such action in United Nations history, is regarded by its organizers as merely symbolic, an earnest of what may be to come.

Pickets positioned round main buildings have been instructed to use verbal dissension only. Staff at United Nations offices elsewhere in Europe, possibly also in New York, are expected to join in.

United Nations employees are in "professional" and "general services" categories. The former are seeking a 12 per cent rise and the others an immediate review of earnings, which should take place each four years.

While salaries are increased on an index system, the cost of living adjustment, now representing as much as 40 per cent of total remuneration in some cases, is not pensionable. In addition, pensions are paid in dollars, irrespective of whether individual contributions were originally in Swiss francs.

With the drop in value of the dollar, pensioners have been worst affected: a 40 per cent

reduction in purchasing power since 1971 for some 1,200 living in the Geneva area.

Of some 40,000 "internationals" worldwide, only about fifth work in New York.

The United Nations staff organizations are pressing for acceptance of their proposals by the General Assembly—where some delegates are resisting.

"We are tired of delays, tired of inaction and inertia", their statement says, "tired of being rebuffed by misstatements and specious arguments".

Mr Edward Thompson (ILO), president of the Federation of International Civil Servants, spoke about "quite tragic hardship cases" of former ILO secretaries trying to live in Geneva on totally inadequate pensions, with the serving staff obliged to make charitable contributions.

With the United Nations financial shortfall at the end of this year expected already to be about £26m, the staff demands would add a further £2,600,000 to annual costs.

Irrespective of the overall economic situation, expansionary programmes, conceived apparently for the United Nations bodies as they might be at the end of the century, have been going ahead steadily here.

A £22m 11-storey structure for the ILO has just been completed. Down the road from it a new edifice is arising for the swelling "Ompi/Wipo" (World Intellectual Property Organization).

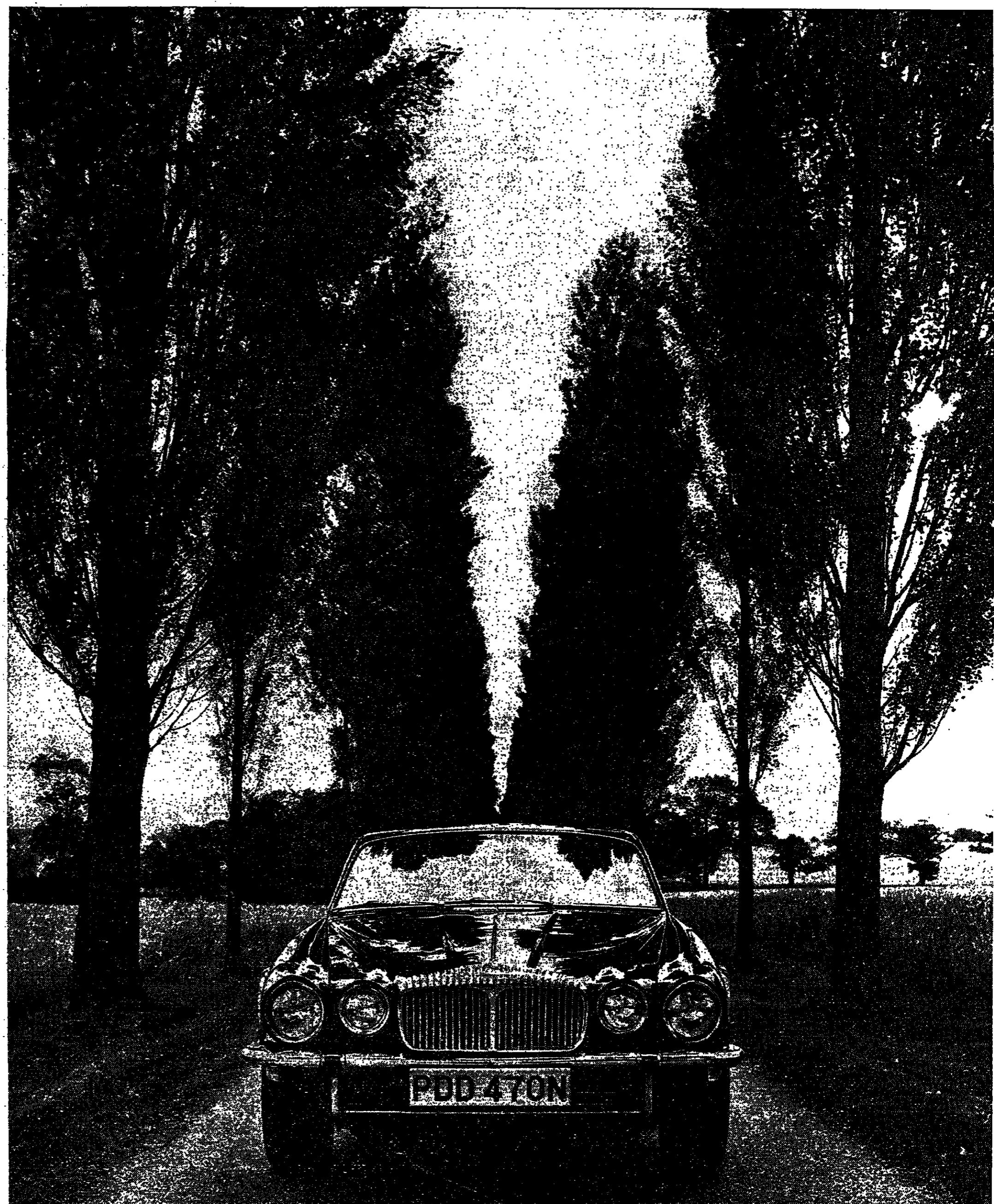
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To acquaint all readers with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in everyday conversation, full details have been printed in a 24-page book, "Adventures in Conversation", sent free on request. The address is: Conversation Studies (Dept TSC7), 9 Mandeville Place, London W1M 6AE.



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OVERSEAS

Chinese hint that US should withdraw recognition of Taiwan

From David Bonavia
Peking, Nov 26

Mr Teng Hsiao-ping, a Chinese Deputy Prime Minister, today dropped a broad hint that it was time the United States withdrew its recognition of the Taiwan regime.

In the presence of American journalists, Mr Teng told Dr Kissinger, the visiting Secretary of State, that it would be a good thing if the talks they were having could be held in Washington as well as Peking. Although Dr Kissinger tried to pass the remark off lightly, it was clear that Mr Teng was referring to the fact that members of the Chinese leadership have refused to visit Washington as long as the Taiwan authorities have an embassy there.

Dr Kissinger, who arrived here yesterday evening for a four-day visit, is reluctantly expected to expect no substantial progress on the Taiwan question for the time being. However, there is a possibility that the question of American assets frozen in China since 1949 might be solved in principle if the Chinese side were prepared to take a political decision on it. Although mainly technical in nature, the assets problem is still one of the stumbling blocks to a further improvement in Sino-American relations.

The American Secretary of State is apparently so pleased with the agreement on arms control which he and President Ford achieved with Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist Party leader, during their

recent meeting near Vladivostok that he does not feel obliged to bring home any extra political coup from his visit to China.

Indeed, the Soviet agreement to such control is seen partly as a way of rewarding the Americans for agreeing to come to Vladivostok at all, although they risked offending the Chinese leaders by meeting the Russians so close to the Chinese border.

The agreement on a ceiling for deployment of nuclear missiles will be represented by the Ford Administration as a most valuable breakthrough in the talks.

The implications of the agreement are so highly complex that Dr Kissinger may spend a good deal of his time here explaining them to the Chinese leaders, who are unlikely to be impressed by the prospects of a lasting peace or a long term slowing down of the arms race.

Dr Kissinger this morning toured the former imperial palace, together with his wife and his two children by a former marriage, before meeting Mr Teng.

Our Washington Correspondent writes: A claim that Mr Nixon, while on his visit to China in 1972, restrained Dr Kissinger at the last moment from conceding to his hosts that the United States unreservedly recognized Taiwan as a province of China was the culmination of a concession which was the main technical problem.

Continuing disagreement over this thorniest of issues is likely to complicate Dr Kissinger's attempt to arrange a summit meeting between Chairman Mao



Dr Kissinger and Mr Teng Hsiao-ping using chopsticks at a banquet in Peking on Monday night

Tse-rung and President Ford, promised to renounce force in the attempts to regain Taiwan.

The disagreement among the American party about Taiwan is understood to have been reported only in secret session to congressional committees by Mr William Rogers, then Secretary of State.

It throws a fascinating light on the haggling over the so-called Shanghai communiqué which was the culmination of a concession which was the main technical problem.

Mr Nixon, and apparently Mr Rogers, objected in Shanghai to granting the concession unless the communist leaders

for a peaceful settlement while the Chinese insisted that "liberation" was their affair.

New Republic asserts that the Chinese are now suggesting that the United States should "cut off the tail" of the Shanghai communiqué, and emulate the Japanese in reducing their presence on Taiwan to a token.

The United States—even less under Mr Ford than Mr Nixon—is most unlikely to abrogate its defence treaty with the Chinese nationalists. That would offend both the Republican right wing, and the liberal Democrats who champion Taiwanese self-determination.

Mr Nixon and his team are still Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait maintain that there is but one China and that Taiwan is part of China. But it called

King Constantine pledges to defend democracy

From Our Correspondent
Athens, Nov 26

Two steps forward in Portugal's decolonization programme were announced today. One was the signing of an agreement on the independence of the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe, the other the signing of a pact between Angola's opposing freedom groups, FNIA and UNITA.

The granting of independence to the island territories on July 12, 1975, was agreed after talks in Algiers between Dr Almeida Santos, Portugal's Overseas Minister, and Mr Miguel Trouvado, the head of the São Tomé freedom organization.

The agreement was signed in the presence of President Boumediene of Algeria and members of his Government in Algiers. Representatives of the Angolan and Mozambique freedom movements, MPLA and Frelimo, also were present. Among the provisions in the agreement are effective independence in July, 1975, a local provisional government in the mean time and a Portuguese high commissioner.

The exiled King Constantine guided in this by prudence and the valuable experience we have gained."

The republicans are challenging suggestions that King Constantine had learnt his lesson. One doctor said: "We have had enough of promises by the dynasty to respect the people. They cannot lure us now."

The anti-monarchists scattered today thousands of leaflets bearing a poor portrait of Queen Frederika, the Queen Mother, with the lines: "I am coming. I will be with you on December 8." She has taken up philosophy and now lives in India. Her frequent interventions in Greek politics have left a bitter memory.

In his speech the king said that the abolition of the monarchy by the Papadopoulos regime in June last year was "arbitrary and illegal". He emphasized that he himself had challenged the junta "in an act of resistance", to stage a free plebiscite on the monarchy.

Political parties, except the New Democracy of Mr Karmanlis, the Prime Minister, have declared themselves against the restoration of the monarchy.

However, Senator Thomas McIntyre, with powerful support from liberal Democrats on the Senate floor, promises to have

US generals spared from some awkward questions

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Nov 26

The Senate armed services committee has saved two of America's top generals from embarrassing questions—for the time being.

An attempt to call General George Brown, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, to explain his caustic remarks about the Israel lobby here was defeated by a vote of 11-4. And a call to summon General Alexander Haig, Mr Nixon's controversial chief of staff, to testify on his fitness to be Supreme Allied Commander Europe, was put off until January—after he has assumed the Nato post.

Neither action means the generals are in the clear, but they have escaped until the next Congress.

"The Brown buster", according to Senator John Stennis, committee chairman, had been "disposed of". He noted that General Brown had apologized, and had been personally reprimanded by the President.

Yesterday, to great laughter at a business lunch, the general said he had now learned "a great deal about the corporate structure of banks and newspapers", and how ignorant he had been before his Duke University remarks.

He noted that he had received letters of support from Jewish leaders around the country and said he was "both awed and appalled by the divisiveness this incident has caused".

In addition, as a result of

General Brown called to explain how he can still effectively lead the armed forces.

General Brown, an Air Force general, has not exactly helped matters by arousing levity in his first public treatment of the matter in a speech at Sacramento.

At issue was his statement at Duke University over a month ago that the Jewish lobby was "50 strong you wouldn't believe". He added that Jews "own the banks in this country, the newspapers". In fact, nothing could be further from the truth than this last statement—and there was a howl around the country, not only from Jews.

His image was given a further boost in September, the same year, when he visited Peking to normalize relations with China. But from then on disenchanted began to set in. In the first place his plans to remodel the Japanese archipelago, published in the form of a book by the Prime Minister, took the price of land beyond the means of the ordinary wage-earner.

In addition, as a result of

Poll call after Tanaka resignation rejected

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Nov 26

Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the Japanese Prime Minister, the son of a poor farmer who became a self-made multi-millionaire, announced today that he has decided to resign as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party as a result of scandals surrounding his private business interests.

As a result, Mr Tanaka, who is 56, will automatically step down as Prime Minister as soon as the party elects his successor, probably before December 11 when an extraordinary session of the Diet (Parliament) convenes.

As the ruling party announced Mr Tanaka's formal decision today, Japan's political opposition and the powerful left-wing Sohyo (General Council of Trade Unions) called for a general election. However, it became abundantly clear that the ruling party, badly hurt by its inability to control inflation and subsequent charges that Mr Tanaka has evaded taxes and used his position to enhance his personal fortune, has no intention of disbanding the Diet and calling elections.

Mr Tanaka, who succeeded Mr Eisaku Sato, has held office for two years and four months as the first Prime Minister to achieve office without a university education since the Second World War.

While none of the charges against him has been verified, Mr Tanaka issued a short statement today declaring that he feels morally responsible for the "political confusion" caused by his personal problems. The Prime Minister, who reportedly had trouble sleeping since the scandal erupted last month, said he felt it was a matter of shame that a misunderstanding should exist among the people "for ever one moment".

The statement was handed this morning to four senior party executives. Mr Etsusaburo Shima, vice-president, Mr Susumu Nikaido, secretary general, Mr Zenko Suzuki, chairman of the executive council, and Mr Sadanori Yamanaka, chairman of the policy research council, when they called on Mr Tanaka at his official residence.

Mr Tanaka, who asked the party to select a successor as soon as possible, will stay on as a caretaker prime minister. The present cabinet will resign as soon as the party elects a new leader.

Mr Tanaka was first elected leader of the party and subsequently prime minister of Japan in July 1972 when his jovial down-to-earth approach and his ability to take quick decisions won him 62 per cent.

His image was given a further boost in September, the same year, when he visited Peking to normalize relations with China. But from then on disenchanted began to set in. In the first place his plans to remodel the Japanese archipelago, published in the form of a book by the Prime Minister, took the price of land beyond the means of the ordinary wage-earner.

In addition, as a result of



Dejection: Mr Tanaka leaves his official residence after resigning.

The ruling party's close association with big business and the Government's inability to curb inflation. Mr Tanaka's support dropped in 22 per cent shortly after the oil crisis developed early last year. He was subsequently blamed for an election debacle in July this year when the ruling party almost lost its overall majority in the Upper House of Parliament. He was subsequently blamed for an election defeat in July this year when the ruling party almost lost its overall majority in the Upper House of Parliament.

Mr Tanaka, who succeeded

Washington critics of Ford missile agreement

From Fred Emery
Washington, Nov 26

Some scepticism over the United States-Soviet nuclear missile understanding voiced here today as it became clear that the vaunted "capping" limiting strategic arsenals allowed both sides to have more than they possess present.

President Ford, briefing congressional leaders confidentially today, asked them not to release the secret figures he agreed with Mr Brezhnev in the Vnukovo talks. But Senator Strom Thurmond, a rightwing Republican, emerged to agree that new limits were "not quite enough" when the 2,500 figure reported in *The New York Times* and Washington were put to him.

Neither side at present has many launching sites of bombers and land and marine launched rockets. The agreement does allow the Russians at least five building and launching sites where they were allowed under the so-called Salt I agreement. The "can" which Dr Kissinger had been put on has with the penit in the box is a better image than ceiling.

Senator Thurmond said throughout the Senate world that the agreement if it turned out to be the way the President does it, however, the severest critic, Senator Henry Jackson, a Democrat, pretender, was beginning fire some running shorts.

Mr Ford chose not to let him suppose because he is not a regular in the binary leadership. He was instead, instead, by a member of National Security Council. Mr Jackson complained Vladivostok agreement was verbal", he said on a fast television news program. He did not like the sound of it.

He raised the question: What had been done to missile power which gave the number of deliverable heads? He noted that the actual number of warheads was subject to limitation. He wanted to know more about verification.

Senator Thurmond had firm that there would be on-site inspection. It is unclear how spy satellites can ascertain what and how many warheads missile carries inside its cone. But the senator felt Mr Ford's confidence that present means of detection, adequate.

Experts suggest that the head variation can be detected from rocket configuration silo characteristics—all possibly detachable through photography and electronic monitoring.

Senator Jackson's scepticism was not shared by the congressional leaders.

Em defence system may only 10 minutes, page 16

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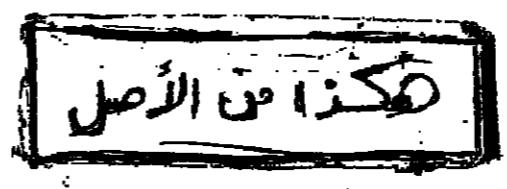
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U Thant to lie in state at UN headquarters

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Nov 26

The body of U Thant, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, is to lie in state at United Nations headquarters from tomorrow with an honour guard of two security officers.

In a brief session yesterday, tributes were paid to U Thant by Dr Kurt Waldheim, who succeeded him as Secretary-General in 1972, and by representatives of the different regional groups at the United Nations—Asia, South-West Asia, Africa, Latin America, East and West Europe, and the Arabs.

In his message sent from the Middle East, Dr Waldheim said that U Thant had guided the United Nations for 10 years through a period of change and turbulence.

Mr Minic ends his talks in London

By A. M. Rendel

Mr Milos Minic, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, leaves London today at the end of his three-day visit yesterday completed his talks with British ministers.

He met Mr Callaghan, Foreign Secretary, and Hattersley, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and later on Mr Wilson, with whom discussed the Middle East, Cyprus and Anglo-Yugoslav relations.

The earlier talks mainly concerned European matters. Callaghan gave his views on the development of the European Economic Community, and I Minic spoke of Yugoslav relationships with it. Close relations with the Community are clearly of crucial importance to Yugoslavia.

Appointments Vacant also on page 29

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FESTIVAL HALL (cont'd. from p. 1)

Dinner-drama in

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PARLIAMENT, November 26, 1974

Defence cuts: shipbuilding and aircraft industries cannot emerge unscathed

House of Commons

MR PETER MORRISON (City of Chester, C) asked the Secretary of State for Defence what was his estimate of the reduction of the numbers in HM Forces as a result of cuts in defence expenditure.

MR MASON (Barnsley, Lab)—I must ask Mr Morrison to await the statement I plan to make on December 3.

MR MORRISON—Any reduction in the number of forces, at a time when the situation in Northern Ireland and Britain is deteriorating, will not have the support of the majority of Her Majesty's subjects. (Conservative cheers.)

MR MASON—I would not want to mislead Mr Morrison or the House. Having spent so many months on a major defence review, which is now continuing at cutting back defence expenditure, with a view to diverting these savings to other areas of productive capacity for the country and towards investment for exports, there are bound to be some cuts. At this stage, I cannot say what they will be.

MR MORE (Lindlow, C)—Quite apart from the question of Northern Ireland, it is considered by many people in the last few days in the world and western Europe, an act of criminal irresponsibility to reduce our defence expenditure at all. (Conservative cheers.)

MR MASON—I am fully aware of the threats to our security and have taken them into consideration in the course of our review.

Employment

MR HILARY MILLER (Bromsgrove and Redditch, Lab) asked whether, in conjunction with the defence review, any estimate was being made of the likely effect of any cuts in employment in civilian firms supplying equipment and components.

MR MASON—I am not able to give any commitments in advance of my proposed statement. We have to take account of industrial implications in mind throughout the defence review.

MR MILLER—There is great uncertainty among many employees in firms supplying defence equipment and components. In one factory any significant reduction in the work force would result in a third of the work force being laid off.

Is there any estimate with the work force either directly or through the Secretary of State for Industry, who has pioneered this sort of consultation?

MR MASON—I recognize the anxiety that people in defence industries will be concerned. I hope on December 3 I will be able to make a statement outlining how such cuts may affect them. I hope it will be manageable and the unemployment prospects flowing from our review will not be grim.

I shall also be able to reveal that consultations will take place with both sides in industry, as well as with the National Executive.

MR BUCK (Colchester, C)—He said his statement on December 3 will enable him to say in what way these industries will be affected. Does that mean after December 3 there will still be room for an alternative in the light of any

views expressed in the House about the balance of the defence review?

MR MASON—I shall not be able to give a clear indication how the firm or shipbuilding or aircraft industries will be affected, but it will be evident from the cuts we are bound to be adversely affected.

The extent to which it will be manageable will depend on the timescale we have in mind.

Warning heeded

MR MASON, replying to further questions, said the Leader of the House had promised a one day debate before Christmas and a White Paper would be published early next year after consultations with allies.

MR PETER WALKER (Worcester, C)—The Opposition view the recent events involving the IRA as requiring certain spheres of the British Police and Royal Ulster Regiment, increased expenditure, less net expenditure. (Conservative cheers.)

On the overall commitments of this country, after five years of steady increases in defence expenditure, we are overspending and at home this is no time for Britain to be diminishing its defence.

MR MASON—I have been fully aware of the threat and expansion of the Soviet and Warsaw Pact conventional arms and I have that to bear in mind. I reiterate that to beat that, we have to increase our military strength in Germany and the front-line as well. I hope it will be maintained.

It is unfortunate that the time when we are considering defence cuts is a time when there should be more and more internal security, but I have that in mind as well.

Trust and friendship

MR STANLEY (Tonbridge and Malling, C)—It would be a bitter disappointment to us in this country, which was largely responsible for the formation of Nato, to be 30 years later responsible for undermining its credibility.

MR MASON—I agree. We have played a formidable part, a strong role, throughout Nato's history and it would be a sad day if the Government and Labour Government were responsible for undermining it. I hope first in consultation with our allies that we do not do that.

MR ALLAUN (Salford, East, Lab)—Will the Secretary of State point out to our western European allies that we devote 5.75 per cent of our GNP on arms while their average is 3.9 per cent? They are in no position to dictate to us. We spend because if we come down to their level we would save a sum of £1,180m a year on arms.

MR MASON—He should not use phraseology about the Nato allies of one dictating to another. I have met them; it is an alliance of trust and friendship. We have to have a common front in order to be able to match the threat of the Warsaw Pact countries and the Soviet Union.

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MR MASON—I am sorry that he introduced the last point. It was a most inopportune time to do so. (Conservative cheer.) I hope the Conservative government is stronger as it does for defence cuts to make sure that the savings I visualize will be properly spent on the social services, education, housing and hospitals.

MR MASON—He should note my phrasing about the Nato allies of one dictating to another. I have met them; it is an alliance of trust and friendship. We have to have a common front in order to be able to match the threat of the Warsaw Pact countries and the Soviet Union.

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Sweden not attractive for deserters

MR WOODALL (Hemsworth, Lab) asked how many British Army deserters with service in Northern Ireland, were domiciled in Sweden.

MR ROBERT BROWN, Under-Secretary for Defence for the Army (Newcastle, upon Tyne, West, Lab)—Three soldiers, who are recorded as illegal absences and who have served in Northern Ireland since 1969, are believed to be in Sweden.

MR WOODALL—It is disgraceful that the BBC might encourage would-be deserters by their example, notwithstanding of this subject. (Cheers.)

MR BROWN—While it was certainly very much out of proportion for the BBC to devote a Midweek programme to such a small problem, I doubt whether anyone thinking of desertion would have found the prospect of deserting to Sweden attractive as a result of this programme.

Minister speculates on higher tax on excessive pay rises

Houses of Lords

VISCOUNT WATKINSON (C), calling attention to the economic situation, said the nation might well be committed to "operation industrial survival".

If they failed in industry to keep costs down and exports up everyone would suffer. However, if they were succeeded, not only in industry but the same might be true of a clearer and more positive lead. They needed less doom watch particularly of the Hudson report variety, and more incentive to fight back and win.

If inflation continued at the present rate of 20 per cent the value of occupational pension schemes in which over 13 million people including trade unionists had invested their savings would be almost destroyed.

The priorities had suggested for national survival required success in maintaining employment, increasing investment, increasing long term investment policy must concentrate as much on the utilization as on the level of investment.

He had asked what would happen if the social contract was broken. He would rather look at it in another way. How could they hope to ensure the social contract was kept?

If we were to build up respect for a voluntary system, they must not refuse to consider additional support for that system if it seemed necessary. That was what Mrs Shirley Williams had in mind when ventilating the idea of a provision in the Price Code which would deal appropriately with incomes increases outside the guidelines.

Similarly (he said) I can imagine a large stop in the tax system which could lead to settlements that went over the top although clearly there are severe practical difficulties.

He would be interested to hear what other peers thought of these ideas or whether they had some ideas to buttress the voluntary system.

The best way of ensuring that the contract was kept was to ensure that those involved wanted to keep it. Fully informed public opinion could be a potent force but it had not yet been fully mobilized.

The CBI should understand that the National Enterprise Board was not by a long chalk a Star Chamber and that tax concessions alone would not do the trick. No plan, no machinery, no Government intervention would give the extra resources they wanted unless there was a will to succeed at all levels.

Memoirs according to rule

MR BRITTON (Cleveland and Whinby, C) asked the Prime Minister to announce the names of the Royal Commission on Standards of Conduct in Public Life.

MR HAROLD WILSON—I hope to do so shortly.

MR BRITTON—An inquiry of this nature arising largely from events in the North-east makes it important that Commission members should not only be people of unquestioned integrity but also politically balanced. As two of the main members, so far announced are former Labour ministers, it is essential that the remaining members should redress the political balance. (Conservative cheers.)

MR WILSON—He need have no anxiety. There should be no suggestion that Lord Houghton and Miss Henderson are anything but people of integrity. When I announced the list of names I said it was not complete and I was in touch with Mr Heath to ask his views on who should be appointed.

When the names are announced—I hope in a day or two—there will not be a Government majority on the commission—(laughter)—nor was this ever intended.

MR WHITEHEAD (Derby, North, Lab)—However long the Royal Commission sits, it should be given the opportunity to do as much as possible for the public interest.

MR BRITTON—An inquiry of this nature, arising largely from events in the North-east makes it important that Commission members should not only be people of unquestioned integrity but also politically balanced. As two of the main members, so far announced are former Labour ministers, it is essential that the remaining members should redress the political balance. (Conservative cheers.)

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Lukewarm attitude

In boardroom after boardroom (he said) we sit around wondering what research and development we can safely cut out. What is wrong with the country?

The CBI should understand that the National Enterprise Board was not by a long chalk a Star Chamber and that tax concessions alone would not do the trick. No plan, no machinery, no Government intervention would give the extra resources they wanted unless there was a will to succeed at all levels.

The country was reeling under the hammer blows of a rate of inflation never before known in an

industrial society and which could destroy the way of life.

LORD BESWICK (Minister of State for Industry) said they could not afford to spend time slanging each other. That went for both sides. Britain was more in the Second World War to identify causes and agree solutions of the economic and social problems. There was an inescapable need for confidence.

Seldom in recent years had Britain been more successful in getting the right kind of industrial relations, in maintaining employment, in encouraging investment, in creating a more positive lead for the future.

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Photograph by Paul Brierley

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Football

Stafford's reward for century of waiting



er confrontation between the world's greatest scrum-halves: Goring (right) leads Gareth Edwards on points.

Welsh need to restore goodwill and pride

ter West

Correspondent

on the tour so far. Their opponents are not likely to make many mistakes, either, least of all the rather loosely directed kick that would give John Williams (below) the state of his team's performance.

It will not be contested by the most powerful teams

their country believes they

are never forgotten, nor

themselves for what hap-

pened to us, but Joe

kicked five penalty goals

in their first match

for almost five seasons,

and I am afraid that by

the time of the final

it will be too late to

rebuild our confidence

in them. Hurst recaptured

the place at centre that he lost to

Morgan in the third international

in Australia last summer.

For many, the most

arresting feature of the

game was the

durability of New Zealand's

pack should be in no way impaired

by the inclusion of Eyleigh,

a fierce and uncompromising tack-

ler, on the flank. Stewart's

return may cost the Welsh

team a point, but

they will not be expected to carry too many

branches onto the pitch,

so, both teams—and the

tors—can do a lot today,

or the result to reforge that

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Finding the facts

a Special Report on information storage and retrieval systems

New methods tackle avalanche of paper

by Pearce Wright
Science Correspondent

There is no interruption to the avalanche of information generated in all sectors of industry, administration and science.

Providing access to that information is being done by new methods. Nuclear scientists, for example, can obtain much of their information by using a keyboard to interrogate a computer-based data bank.

In only one or two subjects, such as advanced theoretical physics and mathematics, do scientists exchange letters and visits as the main channel for disseminating their most important ideas in a communication network of friendships.

The reason why most people in research, industry, education, government and so forth cannot do this lies in the "information explosion".

Thousands of papers and reference books are produced every year on every conceivable technical topic. However, an even greater amount of documentation comes from commercial companies, the law, government departments and, more recently, European organizations. Hence libraries and special information centres are in danger of drowning under this mass of material.

Most of the literature connected with advanced methods of storing and retrieving information tends to be for scientific purposes because here the problems are more readily identified. However, many questions arise in the running of offices and factories that are suitable for answering by technical information retrieval methods. An airline seat reservation system, through which a booking clerk can constantly check on available space at the push of a button, is a commercial example.

This is an intriguing deve-

lopment in the application of computers because the same machine can be doing a much larger but different type of information processing job at the same time for the accounts and engineering sections of the organization.

Airline reservation schemes have a particular significance because they form one of the few applications of information retrieved about which some estimate can be made of costs and benefits. Aircraft operators know how much it costs to have empty seats on a flight, and hence how much they are prepared to spend to avoid this happening by streamlining customer services.

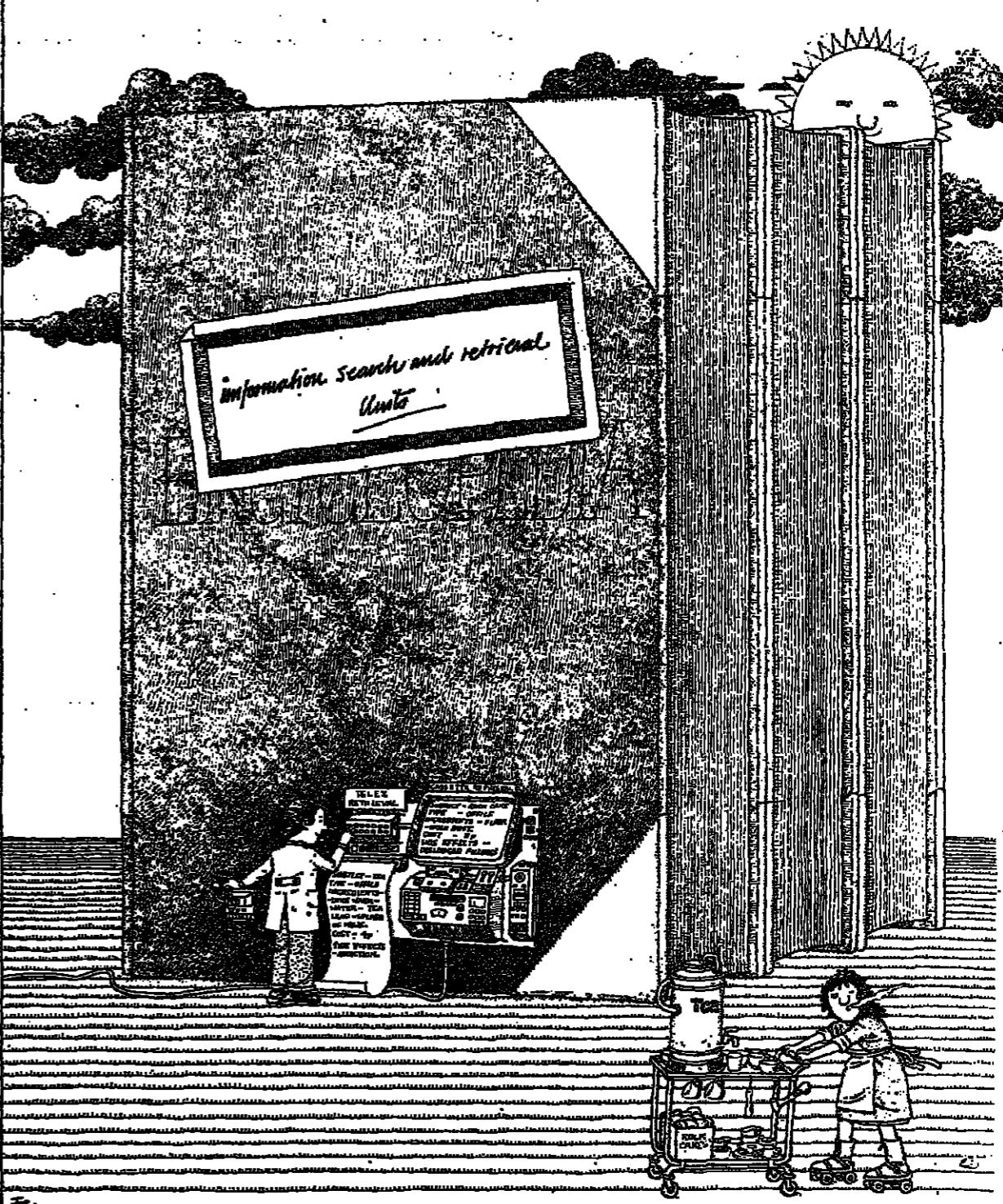
In the calculation, high priority is clearly given to achieving an instant response to inquiries. There are differing attitudes on the subject, as shown by developments among the banks which also have to cope with the quick retrieval of information to satisfy customer inquiries.

In many banks the possibility of walking in to ask for a complete statement of one's account is a thing of the past. It now needs 24 hours to be obtained from the new computer information centre. The decision to work this way is economic, not technical.

Information retrieval ideas comparable to the reservation system are being applied to medicine so doctors can quickly get access to patient records and allied documents. There are far more successful information units meeting the needs of specific groups of people by traditional library services, or part-mechanized procedures, than there are using exotic computer-based schemes. Indeed, some critics believe the computer has reduced many people responsible for the storage and collection of information and management waste of effort and resources.

Experience with technical services that try with computer banks to straddle the world in one particular subject has shown that enormous pools of information can be made available to the individual user at an enormous investment. Some subjects, chemistry, electrical engineering and medicine, for example, have specialist literary services available which are growing on an international scale.

Long before computers came on the scene in the organization known as Aslib, which celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year, was



active in Britain. It has created the machinery for cooperation between libraries, forms an essential part of Aslib work. Training information services and is carried out at elementary specialized groups giving assistance to science and industry beginning information work or specialists moving into new areas.

No other independent organization seems to exist.

From the first attempt at to do the education and training, research and consultancy conducted by this organization. Methods for determining the relevance of each storage and retrieval system may item and on finding a way be transforming ways of recovering it for specific working but the basic goal has always been to make individuals aware that with the added risk of wasting large sums of money on a badly contrived one.

The idea of each user having a keyboard and television-type screen with the penalties of in adequate communication, as to which to ask and receive answers directly from a machine is more attractive in theory than in practice. An important part of the Aslib training programme has been showing how users can adjust to this idea of working but the basic goal has always been to make individuals aware that with the added risk of wasting large sums of money on a badly contrived one.

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language and equipment for their particular material. This has led to research and development into making these different services compatible.

One application already been tried team at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment Harwell, with a p called Status. It in processing the agree and protocols be members of the Council Europe on a computer program to a legal questions. The originates from an cation of computers t processing of law ap to nuclear war.

There is only a t amount of information stored at this early stage. But a sources of information, the legal prot generates the g volume. Various are being made to s structure the many p the law for easier acc key information. Su size of the texts as a matter make this a term project.

Consolidation of Euro

Unwise investment can be disaster

by Julie Harnett
editor, Office Equipment News

Administration, without timely management information, can cause ulcers. When competition is rough, reports are needed which show what happened yesterday, not last week or last month. When decisions have to be made, the information on which to base them is required immediately, not in a few hours or a few days. Whether this is possible will depend upon the type of information storage and retrieval system employed.

Choosing the right equipment to match the requirements of the organization means investigating the various methods and systems available with respect to capital costs, staffing, expansion and efficiency. It is also important to note whether the cost would be immediate, long-range, hidden or apparent.

Other considerations must be employee training in systems operation, hardware and software maintenance and service.

Business efficiency is more vital today than it has ever been and wise investment can pay dividends; unwise investment can be disastrous.

A good information system means more than buying extra filing cabinets as the volume of paperwork increases. It could add to inefficiency, involving the clerk in hours of searching for a particular document. With office rents at an all-time high, the cost in space of one cabinet is an overhead which can no longer be ignored.

On the other hand, to invest in a computer the capability of which far exceeds present and potential growth does not make economic sense either.

For no more than a simple filing system the cartridge type is worth considering (available from ADM Business Systems, Exeter, Flexitron and Frank Wilson). This type of system consists of circular files, with from one to six tiers, which rotate independently and allow reference from 360°.

From one to three people can work at the equipment

without coming into conflict and units can be placed at the desk side or on the desk top. One tier can hold the equivalent of one filing drawer, saving a possible 50 per cent to 70 per cent of floor space. The average retrieval time is about 10 seconds.

If storage and retrieval speed is more important, automated filing systems should be investigated, since average file location time is between four and six seconds. Housed in cabinets, these consist of a series of trays which rotate vertically and, at the touch of a button, the relevant file appears in front of the operator.

Powered filing systems can save more space, since units can be built to ceiling height, making full use of an area rarely used. Systems of this type are available from Autuscan, Conveyomatic, Remington, Ronco and Zippel.

Some of the most impressive advances in information storage and retrieval have been in microfilm. The obvious advantages of this method, vast reductions in storage space requirements, fast and cheap distribution through the post and economies in expensive printed material, are complemented by increases in productivity, retrieval speed and communication.

When it is considered that paper costs alone rose by 40 per cent last year, microfilm makes sound sense, since a micro image file can be from a fifth to a forty-fifth the size of the original document.

Software applications for microfilm are as means of disseminating information at low cost, duplicates of centrally held records; as a means of improving security, since passers-by are not likely to read important material; as an insurance against loss of original documents, which could be disastrous in some industries; for micro publishing of published information which is subject to regular updating; and as an easier means of reading computer printouts.

Starting at below £4,000 for a basic system, prices go up to about £40,000 for a full set of peripherals. This means that expenditure can be planned over a period of time and as requirement demands.

ment are needed, such as a camera, film supplies, film processing facilities, simple storage cabinets — preferably fireproof — for housing the recorded film, a film moulder, a reader or reader/prинтер, and a microfilm duplicator.

Training

of staff in the use of the system is usually undertaken by the suppliers (Agfa-Gevaert, Bell & Howell, Caps, Microfilm, Kodak, NCR and Sperry Remington). Kodak go even further by running seminars for training management in private industry and public service.

The arrival on the scene of COM (computer output on microfilm) has advanced the use of microfilm-based systems even further. Computer stationery is especially wasteful in its bulk and inorganic content; and it involves vast quantities of paper being stored, which is not only a fire hazard, but creates enormous problems in terms of handling, retrieval and eventual disposal.

Producing COM tapes on the computer would obviate the need for printout sheets and, with the possible savings on computer time, the capital outlay on additional equipment, such as readers, could well be recovered in a year.

Computers, as a means of information storage and retrieval have been much maligned over the past few years. This is probably because their capacity was not fully used.

A computer is expensive if it is used for only the payroll. It can handle most business operations, providing management with all the information with which to run a business, stock, customer, supplier and financial.

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Julie Harnett and Patrick O'Leary examine the systems adopted by three organizations

Mini computer cuts processing to a second

In order to streamline the handling of orders and stock control and to cut the time necessary to retrieve information on stock levels from at least five minutes to one second, Oyez Stationery are installing a computer and a microfilm system. This will give instant management information and save two thirds on present filing space, allowing valuable redeployment of labour and improve service to customers.

Oyez Stationery, part of The Solicitors' Law Stationery Society Group, provides office supplies, legal forms, books and office equipment to the legal profession. It has expanded its traditional legal work, and by planned growth, has moved into the commercial market.

A regional service is provided to its customers from six warehouses, supplying about 5,000 standard stock item lines. As part of an overall future expansion and efficiency programme, the company decided to carry out a survey on its existing procedures with particular reference to the

storage and retrieval of information.

At the time the decision was made, Oyez was handling a daily order intake running into many thousands, with customer files in the six figure bracket. The traditional manual filing method was used for handling customers' orders involving stock control.

It was apparent that, with such a high volume of storage and retrieval work, this method was neither economic nor efficient. The situation was exacerbated by the market difficulties of retaining adequate stock levels, since the system was not geared to provide management with immediate information on stock optimization procedures.

Mr P. Lynch, managing director, specified the company's requirements—a system which would be capable of providing immediate access to stock holdings, stock levels and outstanding orders on suppliers. It was considered essential that invoices should be produced within 24 hours of receipt of orders and ready to accompany goods dispatched to save the company postal charges.

Management information is instantaneous, the information being produced on profit and margins needs to be available on demand. As Mr. Lynch pointed out:

"Any system installed must be flexible. We are a sales oriented company, providing a service to our customers. A system must be one that will benefit the customer by improving service and the company by being cost effective, and providing rapid financial and management control information."

Available systems were investigated and the System 700, marketed by Midland Business Machines of Northampton, was chosen. It is a small business (mini) computer based on a DEC central processing unit with keyboard input and visual display units. The system, which will be installed first in the London warehousing and general purchasing division, will consist of seven visual display units providing a storage capacity of up to 40 million characters. Any character can be located and displayed on the visual display unit screen within a second.

Interrogation of stock supplies and customer files

is instantaneous, the information being produced on profit and margins needs to be available on demand.

Recognizing that hard copy must be retained in certain circumstances and that computers also produce paper requiring storage, it is planned to install a microfilm system.

In this sphere Oyez Stationery is making full use of Oyez Reprographics, the sister company providing a microfilm service and which has vast experience of systems consultancy. The result of the microfilm operation will mean that a document can be retrieved and displayed on a reader in about 20 seconds and a copy produced, as required, in a further 20 seconds.

The first MBM system is planned to be "live" by June. The remaining five warehousing complexes will be phased in by the end of next year. Oyez Stationery expect to meet their space saving criteria, along with valuable redeployment of manpower and considerably improved service as a direct result of these installations.

J.H.

Coal board shows how to clear miles of shelves

In its Central Pensions and Insurance Centre at St James's House, Sheffield, the National Coal Board operates what surely will become the biggest microfilm project in Britain. Its scale is impressive not only from the point of view of the huge numbers of records involved (well over a million), but in diversity of techniques employed—roll film, microfiche, jackets, simulated fiche, aperture and optical coincidence cards.

The purpose of adopting microfilm techniques was to save a large volume of work. Considerable benefits have accrued: savings of time, savings of cost, savings of space, ability to safeguard master records from fire hazards, and increased confidence that the information is always up-to-date and accurate.

Another reason was because of flexibility. Although the present disciplines of paying pensions and benefits are largely controlled by statute, there is no guarantee that this will remain so; new legislation might be passed at any time, requiring a substantial appraisal of procedures.

Previously the traditional system necessitated the filing being split into four

more or less equal, independent sections. Some 80,000 current cases were housed at the centre and the rest (about 350,000) were stored elsewhere.

About 4,500 to 5,000 letters inquiring about records pass through the office every day. All must have attention, and the quicker the better. But prolonged retrieval time was slowing up the whole operation; up to an hour to trace the right file and locate the required information was considered good going.

Sometimes it proved impossible to find it until the following day. With microfilm five minutes is considered slow, one minute being the norm:

The cost of providing standard forms to establish each new case file was becoming prohibitive. It was working out at about £2 a time—and 600 new files on average were entering the system each week. With microfilm an overlay is all that is required.

Mr Glyn Trebarne and Mr David Evans of the MCB's Organization and Methods group (headed by Mr Tom Hiskey), Mr Peter Stafford, the manager of the centre, and Mr Gordon Milligan, the director general of industrial relations, are

involved in the conversion to microfilm. They are coded in a single comprehensive index, whereas previously 13 indexes were required. The index comprises 300,000 Sin by Sin cards, housed in a Sperry Remington automated card filing system.

As cases are microfilmed, they are coded in a single index, which is in turn related to binary coding of microfiche. Consideration is also being given to COM (computer output on microfilm). Never short of imagination, Mr Hiskey and Mr Evans are thinking beyond COM to

a further stage which might involve CIM (computer input microfilm). Such concepts have been mooted before and discarded as pipe dreams, but a great deal of research has been done and it would seem that the NCB has the expert knowledge to make such advanced technologies work for it.

Planning is well advanced for taking on a readaptation benefits scheme for the iron and steel industry as agents for the Department of Industry. The logic of the move is sound enough. The NCB has the expert knowledge, having worked closely with government departments before, and coal and steel are after all linked for the purposes of the EEC through the European Coal and Steel Community.

The practice may not prove quite as simple as theory, however. As well as the relevant files of the British Steel Corporation, it will mean taking on the records of the British Iron and Steel Producers Association.

Nevertheless, this extra load will no doubt justify even more strongly the wisdom of converting to microfilm for day-to-day working files.

J.H.

Government saves researchers' time

The Department of the Environment increased its efforts this year to eliminate wasted effort in any research projects related to its many activities. Other government departments, research institutions, universities, local planning authorities and similar bodies were asked to supply details of any relevant work in which they were engaged.

In this way it is hoped that there will be less risk of work being duplicated by teams working in ignorance of what others are doing. One result was the publication this month of an index of government and Government-Sponsored environmental pollution research. It contains a brief summary of more than 800 projects in progress at the end of last year.

It is nothing new for the department to issue surveys of research on various subjects which come under its umbrella. But this year's move is an attempt to coordinate the information, and make it more readily available to the people who need it.

Data on the register for each project gives details of where the research is being done, who is doing it, the title and a short description of the work, sponsorship and cost, the start and expected completion dates, and a list of any publications.

In addition, researchers are asked to indicate their aims, methods and techniques, and mention any equipment specially devised for their use, adding any field or experimental tests involved. The particulars are kept on file, and intention is to update these files each year.

Industrial security sometimes restrains the passing of information, especially when private companies are concerned. Organizations are told to indicate any part of the information which they do not wish to be made available outside the department. But, in practice, it has been found that only a small proportion do so.

Activities covered reflect the wide scope of the department, which was formed out of an amalgamation of several ministries. A few examples of projects listed are: conservation of sand dunes, the interweaving of economic activities in Edinburgh in relation to land use strategy, measurement and analysis of vehicle noise in tall buildings, and a survey of residential houses since 1905.

The register operates from libraries at three centres, each responsible for specific subjects. The centres are at the Building Research Establishment, Transport and Road Research Laboratory, and

the Department of the Environment itself. Inquiries can be made by post, telephone, telex or personal visit by appointment.

Information is not confined to that supplied directly by research teams. Staff scan thousands of specialist periodicals.

In addition the department's library in London keeps registers of research published by outside bodies. A list compiled in October named about 100 of these and by this month another 22 titles had been added. Some were from overseas, and one was a record of current work on theses at universities.

The department has found a brisk demand for its publications, and a ready response to the request for information. "When researchers see other people's work on the register, it makes them want to be said.

Information is also exchanged with such bodies as the International Reference System for Sources of Environment Information and a United Nations group of experts working on urban and regional research. Individual countries also have been eager to cooperate, and several international exchange agreements have been concluded.

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THORN ERICSSON

A £2,000m defence system that may last only ten minutes

In a remote part of North Dakota just south of the Canadian border, midway between the towns of Devil's Lake and Walhalla, an alien growth protrudes above the black-soil fields. The building, a flat-topped pyramid, 75 feet high with a white-rimmed eye dominating each of its four faces, is the Missile Site Radar, control centre of the Safeguard anti-ballistic missile system.

The hushed northern wheat land makes a strange home for a weapon that is ceaselessly discussed in Washington and Moscow, which its makers say is the most complex electronic system in existence, and which is costing the United States about £2,326 million, or about a quarter of what it took to send men to the moon.

Safeguard was completed last month except for the installation of its nuclear missiles, and is now undergoing shakedown tests before being handed over to the United States Army by its designers, the Bell Telephone System. Its task is to protect part of the country's 150 Minuteman missiles buried in silos around the nearby country-side.

In the event of nuclear war, Safeguard would probably enjoy some 10 minutes or so of active life. Twenty-five miles north east of the Missile Site Radar pyramid stands the Perimeter Acquisition Radar, a 110 foot high building with a giant eye occupying its northern wall. The eye's beam, 1,800 miles in range, will find and track missiles launched from the Soviet

Union as they round the earth over the North Pole.

Data on the missiles' trajectories is passed to Central Logic and Control, the command computer on the second floor of the Missile Site Radar. From the time the missiles are tracked, the computer has about five to 10 minutes to plan out the battle ahead. (The only human intervention there is time for is an order from the President that the defence may proceed.)

The Russian missiles may be concealed in a cloud of decoys and rocket fragments, all moving in at a speed of about four miles a second. The computer's first option is to fire its long range interceptor, the Spartan missile, which meets its target above the atmosphere and destroys it in a burst of X-rays.

If the Spartans miss, or if no interception is attempted at this stage, Central Logic and Control waits for the cloud to hit the atmosphere so that with the Missile Site Radar it can sort out the real warheads. With only seconds remaining before impact, the computer launches its close-in interceptors. The cone-shaped Sprint missiles are tossed out of their cells at the pyramid's base, reach their targets within seconds of launch, and disable them in a shower of neutrons. The points of interception are planned in advance by the computer so as to ensure that the missiles do not destroy each other or block out the radars' vision.

Safeguard might or might not survive such a battle, depending largely on how many missiles the Russians could spare. The costs of the trump card have been huge, and so has been the intellectual investment. Between 1970 and 1973, the years of peak activity, about 10,000 professionals were involved in the design of the system. Some 2,000 of these were computer programmers, whose labours are said to represent the most complex software package ever devised.

Safeguard's two radars are phased array radars, among the few of their kind in existence. Unlike conventional radars, which have a movable dish, the beam of a phased array radar is steered electronically from fixed antenna elements, allowing several targets to be tracked simultaneously. The Sprint is a spectacular example of missile technology. Fired at the same time as a machine gun, it will reach and overtake the bullet within three seconds. Heart of the system is Central Logic and Control, a specially designed computer capable of performing about 10 million operations a second. To assure reliability in action, its hardware components are divided into two formally equal partitions, designated "green" and "amber". The green side fights the actual battle while the amber checks the green and instantly switches in its own corresponding component in place of any green part that develops a fault.

"Technically it's a fine system but it's like a train that doesn't go anywhere", says an eminent scientist-critic of Safeguard. The critics may be right in doubting the system's strategic effectiveness, yet anyone visiting the machine-crammed pyramid on the North Dakotan plains cannot help imbuing a sense that it will work, and that the Soviet Union was well advised to bargain for its limitation.

Nicholas Wade

© Times Newspapers Ltd, 1974



Launch of a Sprint missile. A few feet off the ground the rocket pitches over onto its pre-set course.

Chance for the EEC summit to be more than a talk-in

Mr Wilson is not exactly number one on the European hit parade'

One of the curiosities of diplomacy is that despite all the advances in the means of communication, there is no substitute for face to face meetings. This was the basis of Dr Kissinger's success in establishing relations with Peking and in pursuing détente with Moscow, and was the point of his frequent journeys round the Middle East.

At the same time the opposite holds true. Face to face meetings can also serve as a substitute for diplomacy. If there is nothing much to be said or done, ministers can still give this lack of substance a certain ritual significance by arranging meetings, flying in and out of foreign capitals and appearing on television.

The trouble with summit meetings of the European Community is that these two interpretations overlap and get confused. The natural expectation is that important decisions should be taken, to put the European Community back on course. In practice everyone knows that a discussion at this level, however delightful the dinner that follows, cannot put things right.

Nevertheless, it makes sense for heads of government to meet from time to time, just to talk face to face. It is better that any number of official telegrams.

The first summit meeting of the European Community was of the business sort, back in 1969 at the Hague. Significantly, three days were allocated to it. The object on that occasion was to push M. Pompidou into accepting negotiations with Britain (which Mr Wilson's Government had been insisting on so strongly that he declared he would not take no for an answer). In return for an agreement to set up the Community budget, M. Pompidou finally agreed.

M. Pompidou held his own summit in Paris in October, 1972, just before British membership became a reality. It seemed eminently sensible to map out a programme for the new enlarged Community, to take stock of where it had got to and where it was going.

Again, a compromise was achieved, between the French desire to secure what had already been done, notably in agricultural policy, and the British wish to extend Community financing into new areas, namely regional policy, with West Germany, being the paymaster of both, trying to keep a firm grip on how it was done.

M. Pompidou, meanwhile, had taken a great liking to summit meetings and, just before the oil crisis, had proposed they be held regularly. It being Denmark's turn to hold the chair in the Council of Ministers, it was agreed that the next summit in the autumn of 1973 should be in Copenhagen. It was a dismal failure, not just through the unscheduled arrival on the scene of four Arab ministers, to whom the Nine had to pay court, but because the agenda was hopelessly unprepared and the Nine were at sixes and sevens.

In adopting a *same qui peut*, a policy which each country tried to come to terms with the oil suppliers, the pretensions of European unity were exposed, and its more practical capacities given no scope.

Future summit meetings, it was decided, must be properly arranged, to give the heads of government a chance. West Germany, wisely perhaps, declined the honour of holding a summit during its six months' chairmanship, but M. Giscard d'Estaing decided to revive the tradition. It has still been extremely difficult to find sub-

jects on which progress can be made, but no one wanting to be a sportsman, the whole thing is probably going to take place in early December.

It is likely to be quite useful from the British point of view, in any case, because Mr Wilson has got to persuade M. Giscard d'Estaing to accept some changes in the famous budget system agreed at the Hague summit, if renegotiations are to be a success. Paris may be the right moment to do it. Mr. Wilson is not exactly number one on the European hit parade, even if Mr Callaghan has convinced his partners that he wants yes for an answer.

What M. Giscard d'Estaing wants to know is if the Labour Government will recommend the terms of entry, if France makes the concessions required. That is indeed the nub of the referendum problem, because it is unreasonable to expect the French to make such changes if in the end the British Government is not even going to commit itself to Europe.

Surprisingly enough, M. Giscard d'Estaing has urged that what the summit should tackle are institutional questions: restoring a measure of majority voting in the council and setting a date for direct elections to the European Parliament.

Given France's previous reluctance to budge on these questions, cynics have suggested that they are only being recommended now because there is a little chance of anything being done. A more reasonable explanation is that just because the rest of the agenda looks so difficult to handle, if there were some magic formula to beat inflation or stop unemployment which the Nine could agree together, institutional questions offer the only way forward.

The prospective summit therefore, has an unpredictable element about it which is quite attractive. It could be just a showpiece or it could actually do something.

David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

I swear by the famous Levinici I cannot tell a lie

Bernard Levin

that there were no hard feelings, went out and bought me a handsome antique tile, bearing the arms of the Levinici, rhinoceros and all, which stands on my desk to this day, to witness if I lie; or at any rate, it stands on my desk.

But the BBC contest drove me back to Baron Munchausen, whom I hadn't opened for years. There really was a Baron Munchausen, you know, who told tall tales which his hearers were apparently meant to believe; later, these were published by a most engaging ne'er-do-well called Rudolph Raspe, who seems to have added some of his own, and subsequent editions were still further embroidered. One of my favourite among the tales (it is Raspe's) tells of his liberation from Calais of a shipful of English prisoners of war.

"They always remind me of something—rather an awful thing—that once happened to me," It was a very awful thing indeed.

There are some excellent liars in Saki, too, whom I read a lot in my youth, as did the Jorkens stories of Lord Dunsany, though we are never allowed to be quite certain whether Jorkens is in fact a romancer or not. Shaw was not the most extravagantly truthful man who ever lived, at any rate where his own life and background were concerned, but he suffered cruelly from the rearing of his friends at his story of his uncle's suicide, which though perfectly true, was, as Shaw put it, "so extraordinarily grotesque, so absolutely unprecedented in the entire annals of self-destruction, that often as I have told the story, it has never once been believed", which was not altogether surprising in view of the fact that his uncle's method of doing away with himself had been to *put his head in a Gladstone bag and shut it*.

After forming a pair of wings, each of them forty yards long and fourteen wide, and annexing them to his body, I fastened three grappling irons to the tops of the three masts, and fairly lifted her several yards out of the water, and then proceeded across to Dover. Having no further occasion to "shew me", I made them a present to the governor of Dover Castle, where they are now exhibited to the curious.

The liar I love best, because of the magnificent ingenuity of his lies, is Max Beerbohm's A. V. Laider. (Far from my shelves, I had forgotten Laider's name, and rang up that *omnescible* Mr Denys Parsons, in the confident expectation that he could prompt me. "How are you on Max Beerbohm?" I asked. "Well, he was my great-uncle," came the encouraging reply.) On the spur of the moment, which is of course the rest of the story, he was a great liar (see the *Reminiscences* of my god-daughter, *passim*). Laider invents a tale of being in a railway-carriage with six other people, where—dabbling as he

had no intention of bidding for anything in the lavishly bound and illustrated catalogue.

Canned music played *It's Only a Shanty in Old Shanty Town* as I entered McDonald's in Woolwich, the first branch in Britain and number 3,000 in the world. Hardly a shanty, with counter service and seating for around seventy, the restaurant is decorated in the brightly immaculate American plastic and chrome style, with giant colour photographs on the walls showing Americans of all colours and ages happily devouring the products of their favourite huge corporation.

I ordered the Big Mac at 45p, French Fries (12p), and a chocolate shake (18p). Service was immediate (I timed it at 30 seconds) thanks to a rapidly moving staff of 11, all of them in blue McDonald's uniforms with paper hats.

The Big Mac had two pure beef patties, each about an eighth of a pound and, though overcooked, without the slightest trace of dreaded lumps of fat or gristle. They

were neatly nestled in a fresh three-decker sesame bun with chopped lettuce, fried onions, pickles, mustard, cheese and thousand island dressing. Fries were uniformly long and thin-cut, crisp and well-salted. The shake, almost a pint, was made with real soft ice cream and enough chocolate syrup, and it was thick enough to stand a straw in. To finish I had an eggroll-shaped crusty and gooey Hot Apple Pie (15p) with a coffee (10p) or brandy ("American blend").

It was all just like McDonald's back home in Los Angeles: neat, uniform, quick, convenient, and uncomplicated. Weak-hearted conservationists should be warned to stay away though—everything, whether to eat there or to take away, is wrapped in at least one, and more likely two, layers of McDonald's monogrammed paper or cardboard.

Splendid

The Variety Club of Great Britain invited 150 specially selected gentlemen and their guests to dinner at the Savoy Hotel on Monday night, as a prelude to a fund-raising auction of specially selected works of art for charity. Michael Leepman being in Thailand, Robin Young went in his place. Attractive girls in low-cut work-table was complete with

Political secrets of the A-bomb

How Britain fell behind in the nuclear arms race

Would Britain have come to terms sooner with her declining political and economic status in the postwar world if her own and her refugee scientists had been less clear sighted and had played no part in a wartime atomic project? This contentious notion is not some speculative idea of whiz-kids trying to confuse the Hudson Institute monograph on Britain's ills. Very much to the contrary, it emerges as a clear question from an official history of the development of British atomic energy written with access to official documents by Professor Margaret Gowing.

Called *Independence and Deterrence*, it covers the effect of atomic decisions on strategic, political and international considerations, and the administrative and constitutional machine. A second volume analyses the cost, the manpower and the problems of health, safety and security behind the bomb.

In the period under scrutiny between 1945 and 1952, Anglo-American negotiations for nuclear cooperation were at their most traumatic; one of the consequences was disaster for relations between Britain, the Commonwealth and Europe. Although Mrs Gowing is unable to refer in detail to certain papers that are still classified, the revelations should provoke a mixture of shame, anger and disbelief at the way momentous decisions were made. It should make disturbing reading for all parliamentarians, and for the anti-nuclear Labour left in particular, who can discover how easy and for how long policies affecting the fate of the country can be pursued without proper reference to Cabinet—and certainly without the knowledge of Parliament.

In different ways, both Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee condoned this undercircumstances even their admirers should find hard to swallow.

Because of the magnitude and complexity of the atomic issues, both the Labour and Conservative Governments in the first decade after the war succumbed to the belief that policy-making in that field was inappropriate to the normal machinery of government. Churchill had insisted that knowledge was kept to the smallest possible circle of ministers and advisers. Only Sir John Anderson and Lord Cierwell knew continuously the whole detail under Churchill at the time of the war coalition. No Labour member became party to the confidences: neither Mr Attlee as deputy prime minister nor Ernest Bevin as a leading member of the war cabinet.

Matters did not improve much with the newly elected Labour Government in 1945 which was in turn hindered because so few individuals in the Foreign Office, Cabinet Office, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and the Treasury were equipped to advise. Even the Chiefs of Staff had been given the barest outline of the early programme. The legacy of these circumstances on policy and progress for the next few years is a sorry tale.

In the early post-war days, when the possibility of bomb attacks on Britain were considered remote, the atomic issues were not in the forefront of many strategic appraisals. They became more crucial after the explosion by Russia in 1949: even so, the Defence Committee as such was not kept regularly informed of Britain's own programme for producing atomic bombs nor its expenditure upon it.

Indeed even with access to official files, and the help of Mrs Lorna Arnold—departmental record officer of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority—Professor Gowing finds difficulty unravelling the decision-making process in which many special groupings and titles were created in government for this subject.

For 18 months there was no standing ministerial committee on atomic energy. There was

Mrs Orth, and referred to crucial matter of shelling crabs.

"A crab-shelling machine would be of great assistance to both technically and financially crab fishers in the European Community. Does the Commission know what progress has been made towards the development of an effective crab-shelling machine?"

"Does the Commission any possibility of providing EEC subsidy for the cost storage and deep-freezing fresh crab-meat which, owing to high interest rates, is a burden for the individual fisherman?"

"Work on developing shrimp-peeling machine been in progress for some time in Germany and the Netherlands. However, development has not yet been carried enough for the machine to be used efficiently, so shrimp peeling will still have to be done by hand."

"It is occasionally necessary to put shrimps into cold store depots when there has been particularly heavy catch and labour required for peeling unavailable, but there is no connection between this and sale of peeled shrimps and the Commission can see no need to subsidise the cost of storing a deep-freezing fresh shrimp. Shrimps are a very popular commodity in Community markets."

"Well yes, I am sure they are, but what about the crabs? A subsidy has been so blatantly evaded? They would never pay up with that at Westminster."

PH

Independence and Deterrence: Britain and Atomic Energy published by Macmillan (volumes 1 and 2, £10 each)

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The Times Diary

Fat-free hamburger finally found

were neatly nestled in a fresh three-decker sesame bun with chopped lettuce, fried onions, pickle, mustard, cheese and thousand island dressing. Fries were uniformly long and thin-cut, crisp and well-salted. The shake, almost a pint, was made with real soft ice cream and enough chocolate syrup, and it was thick enough to stand a straw in. To finish I had an eggroll-shaped crusty and gooey Hot Apple Pie (15p) with a coffee (10p) or brandy ("American blend").

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The auctioneer, a handsome man with a lined face allowed, when pressed by reporters, that the world was a much nastier place than in 1945 when the UN was born. At the same time, he said it could have been a much nastier place still had it not been for the UN.

He agreed, however, that the

original Formica top". The one work of art in modern idiom attracted cries of distaste from the audience. "I wouldn't give £5 for that" and "he needs his brains tested" people said as it was knocked down for £350. The purchaser may have agreed, because he returned it for resale at the end, when it fetched a further £1,150.

All told the Variety Club's guests unbundled themselves of £46,726, but that was only half the amount raised last year. Times are hard, you know.

Nastier

A book on the role of the United Nations as a peace-keeping force was launched in London yesterday by the Yale University Press. It is called <i



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

NECESSARY BILL

Home Secretary's Bill giving exceptional powers to counter Irish republican violence not have the quick, smooth passage through Parliament that emergency legislation concerning Ireland has been tested. A strong group of Tories looking for satisfaction about death penalty as a condition their instant cooperation. Mr. Ell and his fellow United Ulster Unionists object to the drawing a cordon round Britain for the purposes of police powers and movement of persons, while Northern Ireland, which is constitutionally as much of the United Kingdom as other bit of it, is left outside. They argue that anti-terrorist should be general to the island. And there are libertarians, particularly on the left of the Labour Party, who object the conferment of enlarged retrospective powers on the Home Secretary and police. These reservations will probably be overcome. It is to be done so, for the Bill is now needed. Emergencies are not fortunately brought under control simply by the passage of emergency legislation. The possibilities of government would be lighter if they were, but they are not, the course of events in Northern Ireland itself during the last five years, and to less extent in the Republic of Ireland, is testimony enough. If people expect very much from this measure they will be disappointed. But still it is needed.

In the first place the savagery of the Birmingham bombings used a clear expectation in the public that the Government would react decisively. The government could not afford to appoint that expectation. A failure to respond in a matter fundamental to the duties of government as the protection of life and property against murderous assault would indeed be the ordering of society, already difficult enough in the

conditions of today, yet more intractable. Proscription of the IRA, and power to proscribe its front organizations, will not cause them to disappear, but it is appropriate to the general feelings of indignation that they should be permitted to exist within the law.

It has also been evident, ever since the matter was first urged on Mr. Maudling when Home Secretary in the spring of 1972, that special police powers and powers to control movements across the Irish Sea would be required, and would be justified, if the IRA were to mount a sustained campaign of violence on the main island. The evidence, it must be admitted, is not conclusive that this is now their intention or that it is within their capacity. The IRA command spokesman in Dublin has disclaimed his group's responsibility for the Birmingham murders, and in past incidents some reliance could be placed on what their official spokesmen said. Against that is the intention recently declared by Mr. David O'Connell on behalf of the Provisional IRA to carry into Great Britain an enlarged campaign of bombing of military and administrative targets. And there are indications which suggest that IRA killing squads in Great Britain act without reference to the Dublin command. In that case IRA responsibility is indirect but sufficient, and exceptional counter-measures are in any case warranted whichever the precise faction of murder.

The measures now proposed the two most important are the powers of expulsion and exclusion from Great Britain and power for the police to detain for questioning. The text of the Bill must be awaited, but it seems that the first of these powers will follow closely legislation which was passed in similar circumstances in 1939, the Prevention of Violence (Temporary Provisions) Act. They are a means of rid-

ing there is cause to suspect of furthering or engaging in political violence. The authorities will have to exercise it without there being any obligation on people of the British Isles to possess travel or identity documents. If that proves a serious weakness consideration will have to be given to the introduction of such documents.

The line is drawn round Great Britain, not round the United Kingdom. This creates the anomaly that people may be expelled from one part of the state to another. It is explained by the facts that the seat of much of the trouble is within the United Kingdom, namely in Northern Ireland, and that the border across the north-east of Ireland is virtually impossible to secure, even with more cooperation from authorities in the Republic than has been forthcoming.

The police powers to detail for questioning are powers to which the police have found means from time to time of helping themselves. Since no such powers exist in law it is not bad thing that the practice should be regularized, and restricted, in Mr. Jenkins's measure. The introduction of emergency legislation expressly for the purpose draws attention to the fact that this is not a power the police ordinarily possess. They should not behave as if they do until they do.

The measure will not be particularly repressive unless it is clumsily implemented. The public will look to it for the removal from the community of some dangerous men and women who intend it violent injury. But if it were to be so used as to give parts of the Irish community in Great Britain a sense of grievance similar to that experienced against authority by parts of the Roman Catholic community in Northern Ireland, it could end up by making the problem of Irish republican violence more intractable than ever.

HE LITTLE WATERGATE IN TOKYO

Mr. Tanaka has had to resign as leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party and consequently as Japan's Prime Minister. He had hoped that his steady loss of popularity over the past two years might be recouped by the prestige that would accrue from President Ford's visit. Previously Japanese prime ministers had sent envoys to Washington; this time the man from the White House was coming to Tokyo to acknowledge Japan's importance as an American ally. At Mr. Tanaka's hopes were dashed away in the weeks before Mr. Ford's arrival by the refusal of his party to accept his answers to the charges of questionable financial dealings made against him.

Mr. Tanaka's own background gives some way to explain his fall. A self-made man, somewhat rustic in political style, he was the first prime minister since the war who did not come from the Japanese establishment. Yet the unrest he offered to the "low culture" followed by his predecessor Mr. Sato was welcomed 10 years ago. The country was lashing at the subservience imposed by that posture; in foreign relations especially. Mr. Tanaka's determination to open up the embassy in Peking was a popular move and the speed with which it was done seemed an acceptable return to Mr. Nixon's pardonable stealth in the sudden switch of American policy towards China.

But very quickly the troubles mounted. Taiwan became an issue within the government party in Tokyo. The Chinese are unbending sticklers over

the air agreement. The Russians, seeking to outflank their Chinese enemies, dangled the carrot of partnership in exploiting raw materials in Siberia that Japan badly needed. On top of these multiplying dilemmas came the Middle East war and the oil price rise. The rate of Japanese economic expansion had suddenly turned downwards and Mr. Tanaka could not entirely escape the blame for it. A hurried switch of sympathy from Israel to the Arabs only seemed to expose Japan's lack of inner conviction without arresting the economic downturn. The opinion polls relentlessly recorded Mr. Tanaka's decline.

Such conditions may have exposed Mr. Tanaka's indecisiveness in a country that has lately expected more from its political leaders than it did in the past. But the single thread that has led to Mr. Tanaka's downfall has been the financial one. The outside influence hanging over that was Watergate. It was known moreover that Mr. Tanaka's own election to the party leadership in July, 1972, resulted from handson bribes to dubiously loyal factions.

The uneasiness about the part played by money in Japan's political life was visibly growing and was made manifest in last July's election to the upper house when vast sums were made available for buying votes but conspicuously failed in the result. It may be that Mr. Tanaka's term of office has been marked by a rise in the standards of the Japanese public demands of its political leaders and that Mr.

Lost of armaments

From Mr. Robin F. Cook, Labour MP for Edinburgh Central, and hers

We have been promised that in the near future there will be a statement by the Secretary of State for Defence on the cuts which he proposes to make in defence expenditure. Two recent developments have added urgency to the need for real and significant savings in defence expenditure.

Firstly the announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his recent Budget statement that public expenditure is to be restricted to an overall growth rate of 2% per annum, must mean that Labour can only fulfil its pledges to expand the social services by reducing expenditure on other accounts. It would clearly be intolerable if the procurement of armaments were to go ahead at a time when education and health programmes were being delayed.

Secondly the recent Rome Conference on world food supplies emphasized the embarrassing contrast between the conspicuous consumption of armaments by the advanced nations and their reluctance to allocate realistic resources to tackling the danger of mass starvation. At the present time, this world military expenditure is equal to the combined gross national product of all Africa, south Asia and the Far East. Not only is it impossible to justify this waste of the world's resources, but the imbalance of wealth which it reflects and reinforces is a major source of international conflict.

We therefore believe it is imperative that the cuts in defence expenditure should be substantial and should reduce the proportion of

our GNP which we spend on armaments to the lower level maintained by our European partners. This means more than simply postponing expenditure through natural slippage on procurement contracts, which is being used to provide the "cut" of £175m imposed in December of last year. It means more than a paper reduction achieved by the transfer of military education and health services to other accounts.

The Defence Review, if it is genuine, must produce a considerable reduction in our military commitments and procurement programmes. Anything less will fail to release the real resources we so desperately need, if we are to achieve social justice at home and encourage peaceful development abroad.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN F. COOK
Frank Alfaia Ian Mikardo
Stan Newens Audrey Wise
Jo Richardson Norman Atkinson
Les Hinchliffe Arthur Latham
Peter Snape Andrew Bennett
House of Commons. Russell Kerr

Sale room practice

From Mr. Ian Harris

I was interested to read Geraldine Norman's recent article. It is becoming increasingly obvious that the large London sale rooms have become a law unto themselves. While accepting the very minimum legal responsibility for anything they sell, they have by skillful publicity imbued the public with a sense of total confidence in everything they say.

Not only do I think that all the

legislation applicable in New York should apply here, but I also think that the practice of circulating "estimated prices" should also be discouraged. These estimated prices are often highly misleading, and it is obviously in the auction rooms' interest to put them as high as they can. Unfortunately, with the confidence that the public have in the auction rooms, those estimated prices are frequently attained simply because the sale rooms have said so.

Yours truly,
IAN HARRIS
N. Bloom and Son Ltd.
153 New Bond Street, W1.

Long life and The Times

From Mr. Will Roseff

Sir, Unfortunately I am afraid I must quibble with the assertion of Mrs. Helen Miles in *The Times* (November 15) that the average age of *The Times* readers at death is 80-70 years. I have no doubt that this is the average age of readers whose age is stated in their obituary notices, but this ignores the large proportion (21 out of 30 in today's issue) whose age is not so stated. There is presumably a high positive correlation between the age of the departed and the tendency of the bereaved to state the departed's age in his obituary notice.

There is thus no statistical evidence to suggest that readers of *The Times* do otherwise than be content with their other substantial advantages over readers of lesser newspapers.

Yours faithfully,
WILL ROSEFF
53 Harrowby Street, W1.

Dealing with Irish terrorism—and Ulster fears

From Mr. Nigel Lawson, Conservative MP for Blaby

Sir, More than three years ago, before direct rule was imposed in Northern Ireland, I wrote an article critical of the conventional wisdom on this subject, which you were kind enough to publish on September 17, 1971, under the title "Juridical independence is the only answer for Ulster".

This was, I suspect, the first published advocacy of what no doubt remains a minority view. Yet it seems to me that subsequent events have, if anything, strengthened the case I then advanced for moving towards an independent Ulster—including, incidentally, my warning of the growing danger, otherwise, of bombing and shooting spreading to the streets of Britain".

But independence would not merely remove the citizens of Birmingham and other British cities from the threat of Irish terrorism. It would also, in Northern Ireland itself, undermine the IRA by removing the myth which sustains it and continues to secure it a measure of support within the minority community: the myth that the IRA is an army of liberation from English rule.

Moreover, by placing responsibility for the safety of province irrevocably in the hands of the people of Northern Ireland themselves, the majority community would no longer be骇ridded by the fear that any move towards reunification was a covert step towards Dublin.

This is not a plea for a policy of scurvy or precipitate withdrawal. Nor is the independence solution either simple or ideal. But of all realistic objectives of policy, it is manifestly the most hopeful—or least hopeless.

Within the next few months there are to be elections to a constitutional convention in Ulster. That convention, when elected, should be charged with the task of devising an independence constitution for Northern Ireland.

Yours etc.,
NIGEL LAWSON,
House of Commons.
November 25.

garage while we had lunch with the clergy in Cathedral House. During the meal I mentioned the puncture and the first question I was asked was the name of the garage. I was told that it was a Protestant garage and was given to understand that in some way I had betrayed the Catholic faith.

When I replied that I did not know that garages had a religion, I was told that in North Ireland every street, shop or hymn tune had a religion. The table talk became heated and I was told that I had no idea of the reality of the North. Later that afternoon we had tea with the Cardinal Archbishop of Armagh and recounted this experience. In more moderate but equally uncompromising terms he supported my clergy.

Having heard some of the utterances of some of the Protestant clergy, I am sure that had the roles been reversed an English person would have received similar treatment.

We are told that 90 per cent of the Irish in Ireland are to be found in church on Sundays and, if you apply Christ's principle "by their fruits you shall know them", is it fair to ask what is the value of their church-going?

If the bombers and the murderers have no place in the Body of Christ, let the leaders of the churches say so in season and out of season and let them, like Archbishop Dwyer, support their words by their actions: but if they keep silent or remain silent, let them not be surprised that others will interpret their silence as the voice of the Church.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE E. TANNER,
43 Taigarth Road, W14.
November 24.

From Miss Eve Karp

Sir, Since the idea behind imposing prison sentences on criminals is supposed not only to punish the individual concerned but also to deter other would-be offenders from committing similar crimes, I propose the following measures to prevent further bomb atrocities.

A bomber should receive two sentences, the first a prison term of 5 years to 10 years at least, to come into operation immediately he is convicted. The second, a suspended sentence of another 20 years which would come into effect as soon as, and only when, a member of the same organization carries out another act of terrorism.

Perhaps, seeing the reaction to the death of James McDade by his fellow terrorists, this deterrent would have some effect.

Yours faithfully,
EVE KARP,
London, W8.
November 25.

From Professor D. R. Bates, FRS

Sir, Your advocacy (November 23) of the reintroduction of the death penalty, is a natural reaction to the appalling Birmingham outrages. However, you dismiss too lightly the consequences of creating IRA martyrs. Dangerous emotions would be skilfully stirred up by propagandists in the period before each execution.

The accumulative effect cannot be foreseen, but the history of Irish nationalism should serve as a warning. Further, logic would demand that the death penalty should also be reintroduced in Northern Ireland. The first execution here would be marked by worse acts of terrorism than any we have yet suffered.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID R. BATES,
6 Deramore Park, Belfast.

November 23.

From Mr. John Watson

Sir, War indeed! 19 killed and over 100 injured in Birmingham, most of them young. Bodies everywhere. "Blood everywhere". "Lost both legs and one arm and his face burned to a cinder".

"Pretty girl of 20 lost the sight of both eyes".

Sir, the restoration of the death penalty, if it deterred one potential killer from committing one such outrage, would be more than justified. Is it not true that nation comes to its senses? How long must we go on regarding to the sentimentalism of the abolitionists who selfishly seek to save their consciences at the cost of the murderer and mutilation of innocent people?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WATSON,
Elmwood Old Vicarage,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.

November 23.

From Mr. R. W. Neate

Sir, In view of the continuing hideous campaign of bombing, may I express the hope that the Home Secretary is no longer contemplating acceding to any request to transfer the Price sisters, or any other persons convicted of such wicked acts in Great Britain, to prisons in Ulster. That would be too much for the "long suffering" British public!

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
R. W. NEATE,
47 Glenpark Drive,
Southport,
Lancashire.

November 22.

From Mr. Alistair Kelman

Sir, The latest bomb blasts in Birmingham have naturally produced the beginnings of a backlash against the Irish community among us. No amount of rhetoric from our politicians can stop this development if such outrages continue. Therefore I feel it is time for all Irishmen of courage, resident in this country, who abhor such actions to say so. It is natural for any reasonable

be in circumstances less favourable to them.

3. Sir Joshua makes an emotional reference to "the 11th year of our latest siege", and to the "Spanish economic blockade". In fact, Spain is simply complying with the Treaty of Utrecht and has withdrawn those facilities granted unilaterally to the Rock over the last 150 years, and which have resulted in the occupation of further tracts of her territory through successive British encroachments on the Isthmus. Personally, I think that the present difficulties of the Rock are glaring proof, if proof be needed, of how much Gibraltar depends on the Spanish hinterland.

4. Finally, I believe that the so-called "Spanish proposals" of early 1973 were not only special, but also generous for the Gibraltarians, safeguarding, as they did, their interests in accordance with the Resolutions of the United Nations. It is to be accepted that they were not accepted as a basis for discussion, but I remain convinced that a new and constructive approach is always possible.

Yours faithfully,

D. G. J. MILLINGTON,
Blewbury Hill House,
Blewbury Hill,
Nr Wargrave,
Berkshire.

November 23.

Comparative costs

From Mr. D. G. J. Millington

Sir, May I add another example to that provided by Dr. Thomson (November 23)?

I am the joint landlord of a two-bedroom maisonette on the eastern outskirts of London. The rent is £134 per week. The lowest rent for which a well-known national company is prepared to hire out a colour television set is £143 per week.

Lord Goodman in his Dimbleby lecture remarked that if modern technology could provide all the television he wanted with television sets, it ought also to be able to provide everyone with somewhere tolerable to live. Maybe this is the explanation of the failure.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. J. MILLINGTON,
Blewbury Hill House,
Blewbury Hill,
Nr Wargrave,
Berkshire.

November 23.

Nelson knives

From Brigadier F. S. R. Mackenzie

Sir, In reply to the query by Mr. Slack in today's paper (November 22) for a fork with a single cutting edge, such a device exists known as a "Nelson" knife. It has a curved blade which prevents the food slipping about whilst being cut and also teeth on the end of the blade with which the food is picked up and put in the mouth. One made of stainless steel should be chosen otherwise taste may be affected.

Nelson knives are a Government

issue to those like myself who have

lost an arm but they can also be

purchased from ironmongers shops.

A combined knife and fork that belonged to Nelson himself is on display with other Nelson memorabilia in the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich.

Yours faithfully,

W. MACKENZIE

3 East Road,

Norwich

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

٥٣١ من الأصل

Lay-off pay strike alters Triumph car plant on day after restart

By W. Shakespeare
British Leyland's main Tri-
umph plant in Coventry was
brought to a standstill yesterday
in 24 hours of reopening
a two-week shutdown
use of a strike.

Production was also badly hit
as the company's car assembly
plant in Liverpool, and in all,
9,000 workers are once
again idle, either because they
directly involved in strike
or have been laid off.

Triumph has lost
more than £8m worth of output
in the past two weeks, and it
faces the prospect of
one loss of £1m at a rate of
£1m a day.

The present round of troubles
at the Triumph plant began with a
strike by a small group of key
tool room workers in Cover-
ton pay and a stoppage by
a manning grievance. The
dispute led to a shutdown
of production with the lay-off
of workers in the two plants,
with a further 250 at
body pressing factory in
Birmingham.

Monday, both groups of
workers agreed to resume work,
further negotiations
the management on their
demands. When the
factory reopened, how-
ever, the management was
immediately faced with a claim
from floor workers who had
been laid off during the shut-
down for payment in full for
time they had lost.

After a management promise
alks and a meeting of the
involved in the claim,

there was a resumption of some
car production on Monday, but
yesterday morning 1,000 assem-
bly workers walked out and the
remaining 7,000 had to be sent
to the middle of next year at the
latest.

Throughout most of this year,
after the end of the miners'
strike and the run down in steel
production, the state's steel
undertaking has been unable to
meet all the demands for
various types of steel and in
some cases has been forced to
ration supplies.

But at a meeting with leaders of
the British Iron and Steel
Consumers' Council, Dr Monty
Finniston, chairman of the BISC,
said that supply and demand
should be in balance no later
than the end of June next year,
and it was hoped, by the end
of the first quarter of 1975.

The BISC's concern however
depends on its ability to secure
adequate supplies of coal, of
the right quality, the con-
tinued satisfactory inflow of
scrap supplies, which earlier
this year were a major constraint
on production and to achieve
greater stability in labour relations.

It appears unlikely that the
BISC will be able to catch up on
the backlog of orders for heavy
plate and for large steel sections.
The corporation sees the
supply and demand equation
being influenced considerably
by the downturn in demand from
the United Kingdom con-

To abandon this principle
would clearly make manage-
ment extremely vulnerable to
"leap-frogging" pay demands
within each plant, with militant
groups being free to take strike
action without exposing other
workers to loss of earnings
through lay-off.

Chrysler has fresh problems
in its car assembly and engine
plants in Coventry, where
skilled millwrights began a
strike from last night. They are
demanding parity with toolroom
workers who recently won an
increase in overtime rates for
weekend working.

Settlement hopes rise in shipyard dispute

Our Northern Industrial
respondents at the Cammell Laird
shipyard on Merseyside, which
had been at a standstill for the
six weeks, are to meet this
morning to discuss their next
move. There are hopes that the
meeting may lead to a settle-
ment.

Feelings were held yesterday
between full-time union officials
and the Confederation of Ship-
building and Engineering
and shop stewards repre-
senting 2,300 men from the fit-
out trades who are on strike
for pay demands.

Another 2,000 workers are
off, and strike pickets have
been preventing about 400 man-
agement and staff employees
from entering their offices.

The dispute centres on a
pay increase for the yard's skilled workers, the
ermakers. Negotiations have
been held between the company and the confederation unions in
the management is under-

stood to have offered a phased
move toward wage parity.
But at a recent mass meeting
the strikers shouted down a
senior union official who tried
to explain the company's offer
and subsequently the shop
stewards demanded direct nego-
tiations with the management.

This was rejected by the com-
pany, which has maintained that
it can deal only with the official
negotiating body, the confedera-
tion district committee. There
are now some hopes that after
yesterday's talks, today's meet-
ing may lead to a settlement.

At the Vickers shipyard at
Barrow-in-Furness, the manage-
ment is to have further talks
today with union officials rep-
resenting 500 electricians who
have been on strike since the
beginning of last week.

They walked out in protest
after the company had adver-
tised for more men. The elec-
tricians claimed that they should
have been consulted and offered
additional overtime before new
workers were recruited.

Ayer chief forecasts end of chemical boom

Anthony Rowley
in the group's profits to
a early end to the world-
wide boom in chemical demand
predicted yesterday by Herr
Herr Grünwald, chief
executive of Bayer, one of the
big German chemical
cos.

He must "adjust to the
ability that it will achieve
growth in volume sales next
year," he said.

Herr Grünwald said in
Kalks, near Cologne, on
release of the group's third
quarter results.

These show the worldwide
over of Bayer AG and its
subsidiaries up by 3 per cent
value to Dm14.19m in
500m at the end of the
first half rate of growth,
the 32 per cent increase

in DM1.227m in the first nine
months.

Chemical demand has
weakened since the middle of
this year, however, and Bayer's
volume sales in October were
down compared with October,
1973, Herr Grünwald said.

This "negative trend" was
expected to continue in
December, and in December.

Bayer might be unable to off-
set its higher costs by increased
production, and profits would
suffer, he said. Capacity
utilization had fallen during
this year and was at present
around 80 per cent.

Meanwhile, Bayer intends to
increase its capital investment
in Germany by 4 per cent in
1975, to Dm850m.

Financial Editor, page 21

BSC hopes to meet demands by mid-1975

By Peter Hill

Qualified assurances have
been given by the British Steel
Corporation to British industry
that it should be able to meet
all expected demands by the
middle of next year at the
latest.

Throughout most of this year,
after the end of the miners'
strike and the run down in steel
production, the state's steel
undertaking has been unable to
meet all the demands for
various types of steel and in
some cases has been forced to
ration supplies.

But at a meeting with leaders of
the British Iron and Steel
Consumers' Council, Dr Monty
Finniston, chairman of the BISC,
said that supply and demand
should be in balance no later
than the end of June next year,
and it was hoped, by the end
of the first quarter of 1975.

The BISC's concern however
depends on its ability to secure
adequate supplies of coal, of
the right quality, the con-
tinued satisfactory inflow of
scrap supplies, which earlier
this year were a major constraint
on production and to achieve
greater stability in labour relations.

It appears unlikely that the
BISC will be able to catch up on
the backlog of orders for heavy
plate and for large steel sections.
The corporation sees the
supply and demand equation
being influenced considerably
by the downturn in demand from
the United Kingdom con-

To abandon this principle
would clearly make manage-
ment extremely vulnerable to
"leap-frogging" pay demands
within each plant, with militant
groups being free to take strike
action without exposing other
workers to loss of earnings
through lay-off.

Chrysler has fresh problems
in its car assembly and engine
plants in Coventry, where
skilled millwrights began a
strike from last night. They are
demanding parity with toolroom
workers who recently won an
increase in overtime rates for
weekend working.

Mr Jack Frye, chairman of
the BISC, said last night that
the organization hoped to be
able to submit details of industry's
steel requirements over the
next six months to enable the
BSC to plan more accurately.

Mr Denis Healey, the Chancellor
of the Exchequer, said in London
yesterday that the Government
was entitled to ask
industry to increase productive
investment and exports out of
the new resources released by
the recent Budget action aimed
at increasing the liquidity and
profitability of business.

Indeed, sterling rose a quarter
of a cent against the dollar, to
\$2.3245. But it ended the day
lower in most of the major
Continental financial centres.

As a result, its effective
depreciation (since December,
1971) against 10 key currencies,
worsened from 20.7 to 20.8 per
cent—the worst level ever
registered.

Dealers reported, however,
that trading in sterling was
fairly quiet. It appears largely
to be receiving the backlash of
the general movement against
the dollar.

The cut from 10 to 9½ per
cent by the small Michigan
National Bank of Detroit yester-
day provided the exchange
market with a fresh reminder of
the trend that has sharply
reduced the attractiveness of
dollar investments in recent
weeks.

At the same time, there is
increasing evidence that the
Middle East oil producing
countries are diversifying their
investments.

This has largely meant pur-
chases of Swiss francs and
German marks. However, there
was also a sharp and
unexplained rise in the French
franc yesterday.

All the projects so far aided
by the EIB are part of the cor-
poration's 10-year moderniza-
tion and expansion plan for the
British iron and steel industry.

The latest loans bring to
nearly £50m the total of EIB
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Borrowings by IMF from oil countries 'likely to increase'

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Nov 26

Dr. Johannes Witteveen, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said today that the IMF was likely to increase substantially the level of its borrowings from oil-producing countries in 1975.

He said he expected the IMF to play a considerably greater role in the coming year in the recycling of funds from oil-producing to oil-consuming countries.

In a speech to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations he implied that ministers of finance would take decisions in January to expand the IMF's oil facility.

The United States Administration has shown no enthusiasm for an expanded IMF facility, but Dr. Witteveen is clearly confident that the green light for such a facility will be given at the interim committee meeting of ministers of the IMF.

Further, he indicated today that the enlarged facility would be so constructed that the IMF would be able to give special rate subsidies on loans to developing countries.

The United States Administration has recently indicated that the IMF facility should be maintained in its current form and that an entirely new recycling facility should be created outside of the IMF for industrial oil-consuming countries.

Dr. Witteveen today welcomed the idea of a special new facility, but argued that it would still be necessary for the IMF facility,

which now had a volume of some \$3,000m (about £1,250m) to be enlarged.

He said: "It is probable that the Fund would have to play a considerably expanded role of intermediation in 1975 compared to 1974."

This would mean larger borrowings by the Fund from oil-exporting countries and possibly from new industrial countries in a strong payments position."

He added that the IMF had the experience now "to set arrangements in train for 1975 within a very short time after decision".

The IMF facility at the moment lends at a rate slightly above the rate at which it borrows funds. Dr. Witteveen stressed, however, that because of the very severe payments crisis of the least developed nations the IMF had been studying ways of easing their interest rate burden.

He also stressed that the level of borrowing from the IMF's regular facilities had increased sharply in the last year, due to a large extent to the payments problems produced by the oil crisis.

OPEC meeting: The economic commission of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries met yesterday in Vienna to prepare the December 12 conference of OPEC ministers who will decide on a new level and a new system of oil prices.

In addition to setting new prices for the first quarter of 1975, the ministers will deal with a new uniform price system which was worked out by a party of experts a month ago, it is reported, will be confirmed by the Economic Commission.

Kimber Die breaks N. American monopoly

By Clifford Webb

In a remarkably enterprising move, a little known Black Country drop forging firm has broken a United States monopoly controlling the supply of essential components to the huge North American agricultural equipment market.

Kimber Die & Tool, a family-owned business at Cradley Heath, Worcestershire, is now expanding to cope with export orders worth £2.5m to supply cutter guards for combine harvesters, swathes and mowers.

It also enables the company to grow at a time when other drop forging firms face contraction because of falling orders from the motor industry. KDT were dependent on the motor firms for 90 per cent of their business but following the success of the North American enterprise and smaller diversifications motor firms now account for only 10 per cent.

Mr. Mick Wilkes, joint managing director, has just returned from the United States and Canada with the £2.5m order book. He said: "We began exploring the North American market a few years back, and found to our complete astonishment that one American firm, Buchanan's of Michigan, were supplying the whole market with patented cutter guards similar to those we have been selling in Britain and Europe for a long time.

"We have now reached the stage where despite the distance we are recognized as the alternative supplier the Americans and Canadians have been looking for. We regularly airfreight deliveries to meet tight schedules."

Shell-Mex and BP to make substantial cuts in sales force

By Ronald Kershaw

Shell-Mex and BP, the United Kingdom joint marketing company of Shell and British Petroleum, is to make substantial cuts in its present sales force of about 3,000. A spokesman said the cuts had nothing to do with brand separation and the final disappearance of the joint company at the end of next year.

"We have been selling less oil and have less need for men," he said, adding that redundancies would be kept to a minimum.

Unconfirmed reports say that when Shell and BP start marketing their products individually in this country in 1976, changes in both company sale structures will dispense with regional offices, a feature of the joint marketing company.

Another company spokesman said: "The oil industry has been faced with changes in the marketing environment, and this company has undertaken a reappraisal of its sales policy and consequent staff requirements."

Evidence sought on income levels

The Royal Commission, set up in August to examine the distribution of income and wealth, is seeking reports on personal income at all levels, including fringe and non-monetary benefits, unearned income of all kinds, capital gains, and all forms of personal wealth between now and January 22, 1975.

This is the second reference on which the Commission has so far sought evidence.

ments. In the light of these requirements some reorganization of the sales promotion and sales generation functions is proposed. "In line with the company's normal practice this will be made by natural wastage and from non-recruitment of staff." Some staff are also likely to take discretionary release.

"The number of people concerned in the reappraisal is very small in comparison with the total of staff in the group," he added. "Because of the country-wide nature of our business there will not be any question of a surplus in any one area. The total sales organization of Shell and BP is about 3,000 people, and movements within this organization will be used further to reduce the scale of the problem."

There has been talk of 35 to 40 per cent cuts, but the spokesman said: "We do not know the number of people involved and how much the problem will be ameliorated by non-recruitment."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prices and pay: Government keep out!

From Mr Ian A. M. Copland

Sir, The national debate about the social contract in general and threshold payments in particular has an air of unreality. The current wages explosion was not only predictable but was predicted by this Association in representations that it made in January and December, 1973, to the ranking ministers at the Department of Employment and to their civil servants and the Pay Board between times. Unlike many media commentators—*les clercs trahissants*—we were not beguiled by the early apparent success of the Conservative administration's incomes policy.

Our association had long had a modest form of index-linkage as part of our pay structure and our representations frequently made conjointly with the trade unions with whom we negotiate were moderately aimed—but without success—at saving this element from the blind bludgeon of the Pay Code.

Statutory prices and incomes policies fail in the long term because they cannot cope with innovation. If we are going to essay them again let us go the

whole distortion hog and have rationing of food and raw materials and the direction of labour. If not, is it too much to governments to get right things which are truly concerned—the level of state expenditure, the budget surpluses or deficits (preferably former), the rate of exchange and the level of interest rates.

Can they also run a for policy on the essential premise that nowadays no one is either scared of the United Kingdom or interested in moral exhortations?

We in industry will have sweat out the present wages explosion but please give some respite from ill-judged government intervention if not of prices and pay. If words of John, Paul, George and Bert . . . "We can win our".

Yours faithfully,
IAN A. M. COPLAND,
Chairman,
The Independent
Steel Employers Association,
5 Cromwell Road,
London, SW7.

National savings stamp and lonely old people

From Sir Harry Page

Sir, One of the really distressing parts of our inquiry into national savings was the attempted justification of the 10p stamp on the grounds that the weekly visit by the collector was a great boon to lonely old people. (Mr. Gardner's letter, November 22.)

This argument was supported by the illustration that some old people went through the chagrin of having difficulty in finding the state steel under-taking adequate supplies of scrap.

The management committee of the British Scrap Federation has invited its members and regional associations to submit suggestions by the middle of next month on alternative proposals for meeting the BSC's stamp requirements.

This follows a meeting between representatives of the BSC and senior executives of the BSC at which Dr. Monty Finnigan, the BSC chairman, confirmed that the corporation had entered into special commercial arrangements with a considerable number of scrap merchants to ensure that BSC was supplied with adequate amounts of scrap.

The scrap industry has been angered recently by the BSC's decision to make special arrangements with selected scrap companies under which BSC apparently pays higher than market prices in return for stable supplies of scrap.

But the BSC was assured that the arrangements were not considered inflexible and was invited to submit alternative proposals.

More liaison among tourist regions urged

By Patricia Tisdall

More liaison between tourist regions is recommended in a report issued yesterday by the regional tourist board officially representing Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Priority attention is needed, for example, to accommodation, entertainment and promotion of historical attractions to visitors.

According to the report, London is considered short of moderate cost accommodation. The South-East has it in abundance, together with excellent communications to London. London supplies entertainment very generously, the South-East is perceived to be short of it. There is clearly much to be gained on both sides from close cooperation in these and other areas.

Other recommendations are that all facilities used for recreational and leisure purposes, together with all forms of accommodation should be classified as tourist facilities, with the classification standardized for the whole region. At present, the report says, it is only in terms of accommodation that all interested parties agree on what constitutes a tourist facility.

The report, the result of 16 months' work by Inbucor/AIC Management Consultants, is being used by the South-East England Tourist Board as the basis of its aims and strategy for tourism in the region.

Cost saving claim on concrete

British engineers have found a new way to increase the strength of concrete slabs and beams which, it is claimed, could lead to cost savings of up to 30 per cent. The discovery has been made at Salford University.

Tests have shown that fibrous cements, such as asbestos cement, used as an external anti-crack reinforcement makes it possible to increase the strength or reduce the size of slabs or beams.

Work on the project has been carried out in collaboration with TAC Construction Materials, a subsidiary of the Turner and Newall group. The method is the subject of worldwide patent applications.

Mr. C. Miles, British Consul in Edmonton, yesterday urged British industry to play a more active part in developing energy-based projects in Alberta. He stressed the importance of the Athabasca tar sands and the many projects connected with the exploitation of these resources.

Mr. Miles and Alberta government officials were speaking at a London seminar sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board.

Letters to the editor

to the psychosis induced by inflation as a device for protecting earnings. At the level of the social contract in general and threshold payments in particular has an air of unreality. The current wages explosion was not only predictable but was predicted by this Association in representations that it made in January and December, 1973, to the ranking ministers at the Department of Employment and to their civil servants and the Pay Board between times. Unlike many media commentators—*les clercs trahissants*—we were not beguiled by the early apparent success of the Conservative administration's incomes policy.

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ICI's industrial relations

From Mr David Arthur

Sir,

I

work in ICI monthly staff. I have no doubt that present strength is derived from acceptance that all employees—blue-collar, white-collar, top hat!—have a common interest in the success of the company's prob

It will be tragic if, as a result of Clive Jenkins and CIR, the company is forced to adopt the very relationships confrontation and strife which so many companies struggled to break away.

The great majority of staff with whom I had contact were opposed to the idea of being represented in negotiations by a union, and it certainly is not

Insecurity of life assurance

From Mr E. D. Stern

Sir, How snug and easy it is for Mr. Dover to write (Business News, November 20) to support the views of those who see no justification for granting any assistance to life insurance companies that have failed. Obviously he would not have invested in any of these companies.

People like myself (I am a retired pensioner) were quite unaware that we were running any sort of risk when we made our purchases. After all, I was sure my money was in a well-established British life company and my broker had assured me that the DII kept a careful watch on

it. It is noticeable that nor these gentlemen who are opposed to any rescue operation thought fit to write to me at the time these "risky" insurance policies were offered. The public and their brokers demand a better service.

EDWARD D. STERN,
16 Graham Road,
West Kirby, Merseyside.

about 10 per cent less fuel I should.

I was amazed to find there is no statutory maximum moisture levels for solid coal.

With coal such a political issue could not a politician something about this?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WELSH,
Gallery House,
Duddenhoe End,
near Saffron Walden,
Essex.

Moisture content of coal

From Mr Richard Welsh

Sir, I have just delivered 10 cwt of Coalite, costing almost £18. It seemed wet so I dried a sample and found that the moisture content was over 25 per cent. I am told the British Standards Institution recommends 8-12 per cent acceptable.

My coal merchant tells me

he added 7lb of wet coal per cwt because of the heavy rain yet I still seem to be getting

Understanding heat pumps properly

From Mr A. F. Stobart

Sir, There have been several articles and letters recently extolling the virtues of heat pumps, which have been published either in features or your main column. I feel that there is a considerable misconception as to the real effectiveness of these devices as fuel-savers.

The normal heat pump will usually only recover from the air or other sources about the same amount of waste heat as was put into the atmosphere during the generation of the electricity required to drive the pump. There is thus no gain in absolute terms, and a considerable capital expense.

Hydroelectric generation does not suffer from the same defect, so the various Swiss installations are economic in real terms. And as most electricity is generated in this country by burning something, the normal "refrigerator in reverse" type of heat pump is not fundamentally economic.

However, if a recently granted United States patent for a heat pump integral with a fuel burning engine is developed, then the picture changes. Waste heat from the drive unit is combined with heat from the pump to give fuel economies of up to 30 per cent in winter conditions, and greater economies in warmer weather. The heavy capital expenditure in electrical generating plant necessary if "normal" heat pumps are to be widely used is not required.

Against this, one supposes that we shall have to pay dearly

to import the equipment from the United States. Japan, other countries with a active product development policy and time scale seems sad in the face possible import saving of worth £400m per year figures are calculated from published in your newspaper. Heat pumps of a "co-economic" type were installed for domestic and industrial space heating.

A. F. STOBART,
Manor Farm,
Claydon, Banbury,
Oxfordshire.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The borrowings burden weighs on J. Lyons

ns' interim figures were not less bad than the t had feared and the participated fully in lay's technical rally, with up 9p to 63p and the up 5p to 65p. The mance of overseas com including recent acqu like Baskin Robbins in ca and the European companies, obviously the.

United Kingdom was, prety, pretty gruesome for food and ice-cream com—the latter will be y bad in the second half hotels will not have done than a break even after ng for the "Tower" e costs. But despite this squeeze on United King margins, the offer of r price control freedom United States and some of Europe, has been h to leave trading profits er cent up at £11.2m.

t, however, is as far as od news goes. Interest have leapt from £3.5m in and, though notionally overseas acquisitions are financing costs, it be remembered that part Eurocurrency loans in are charged to United om profits. With the oul big jump in working l, on the back of sugar other food raw material Lyons is carrying a heavy n of borrowings and gear. Property disposals and l spending cuts will help o real dent in borrowings, especially in under two years. ns is not looking for any improvement in the United dom food market before either. So, assuming the end gets no worse and ce-cream cannot have such a year in 1975, that leaves overseas companies with ain job of preventing the al gearing effect gettin. It also leaves the ratf of shared classes look vulnerable assuming earn of around 10p only thi.

Moreover, the yield of per cent on the "A" has e seen in the context of prospective cover even a maintained final this

rim: 1974/75 (1973/74) alization £18.8m £24.9m (£19.8m) x profits £3.29m (£5.96m) lend gross 3.134p (3p) weeks in each case.

yer

trailer
ICI

er is the first of the German nical majors to report third ter results and, as expected, are good. Much more ificant, however, is the disre (matching that by Akzo) sales volume has gone ex in the final quarter. The ans there for ICI due to tomorrow, are obvious

g. His third quarter figures ld be good, but, given the stance of European demand ad ICP's 1974 momentum, maintenance of growth in fourth quarter looks very open to doubt. True, should be some residual fit to ICI of exporting into currency areas and invoc in sterling. However, it is city utilization that really us and here the pointers Bayer are unpromising. quably share ratings in and Frankfurt are d discounting the end of chemic boom. And firm and for organic internat pharmaceuticals and protection agents will help falling demand from the ling, motor and textile us. However, it is equally looked less guaranteed.



Mr R. L. Salmon, chairman of J. Lyons: conserving cash resources.

arguable that, like the oil companies, chemical producers are now in uncharted territory so far as oil-derived raw material costs are concerned, not to mention domestic inflation.

Third quarter: 1974/75 (1973/74)
Capitalization £51m
Sales £76.1m (£61.5m)
Pre-tax profits £3.99m (£4.52m)
All figures in Deutsche Marks.

House of Fraser

Importance of final quarter

Nine months into the year end-January there is still little enough that can be said with certainty on the outcome for House of Fraser, for last time the final quarter provided 45 per cent of the £20.7m total pre-tax. What is obvious from the figures for the 39 weeks to October 26 is that the rate of sales growth has steadied at just under 24 per cent, and that margins have once again started to slide. As against a 4.9 per cent reduction pre-tax at the interim stage, House of Fraser's third quarter profits are down by 11.7 per cent.

The case for treating Boot alongside the sector is that 35 per cent of its £1.8m profits come from construction, plant and joinery interests. And although construction remains strong, joinery will be down hard enough this year to leave overall profits somewhat lower at around £1.75m. So Boot, despite its healthy five year record, is by no means immune to the construction cycle, which clearly poses some question marks for 1975.

But Boot has unusual strength in the form of a building society subsidiary, set up to enable it to sell houses it had built and owned to tenants who had previously rented from it. The society has never taken deposits from outside, broadly restricting its new lending to the amounts freed upon the early termination of existing loans. But while this policy has meant very little growth, except for that generated by rising interest rates, it has left the group with a backbone of relatively dependable income. The finance division, of which the building society accounts for about three-quarters, contributed no less than 52 per cent of profits last year, while property rental income accounted for a further 13 per cent.

The building society is, admittedly, vulnerable to a downturn in interest rates, but put on a scale to make more than a relatively small dent in profits.

In short, the quality of earnings is rather higher than a simple construction industry tag would indicate.

Working capital should be improved by some £2.2m on implementation of the stock appreciation proposals of the Budget; and in any case House of Fraser's gearing is low relative to the stores sector and there is no cause for alarm in an interest charge for the nine months which has increased from £1.61m to £2.24m. Whether, however, the group has sufficient positive virtues to command a prospective p/ratio of 5.6 at 42p—assuming some £15m for the year after £10.5m pre-tax after nine months—is a moot point. True, there is likely to be a full bid from Carter Hawley Hale at some point. But it may be a long time in coming, and the 13.6 per cent prospective yield is not really enough to make the shares a buy mean year.

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Sales £76.1m (£61.5m)
Pre-tax profits £3.99m (£4.52m)
All figures in Deutsche Marks.

Henry Boot

Unusual Strengths

Only those companies which can afford not to care too much about share price performance in the secondary market can contemplate obtaining listing now, and such is the case with Henry Boot. With 36 per cent of its equity already held outside the family it is obtaining an introduction without having to offer shares to the public and thereby looking balance sheet levels it with few immediate financing problems. In fact its only interest in obtaining a listing is to enable it to lose its close company status, which has severely limited its freedom to move funds freely and efficiently between its various subsidiaries.

In all probability, Boot will be ranked much in line with the construction sector, which argues for a yield of around 12 per cent and hence a price in the 75p-85p range, or rather less if the market thinks earnings important enough to rate a p/r of 5.5 at that price as rather too high.

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Business Diary: Keeling's next course • Goodson's war

appropriate that, the ssor to Kenneth Taylor as ar of the Price Commission should be Desmond Keel now an under-secretary at Ministry of Agriculture. ing was a backbone over of the last Conservative ment's food price con when they were admind by that ministry.

Keeling did not leave price os; they left him. In 1973, the Price Commission was formed with Taylor as secretary and the ministry gave s role of food price police with a sigh of relief.

s move to the £11,100 post be Price Commission in promotion to the level of Secretary in the Civil ice after a career in it that in the Ministry of Public iling and Works in 1947.

he job of secretary to the mission is regarded as simi to that of the managing tor of a company.

Keeling, who is 53 and was at Peterhouse and the ion School of Economics is well known to leaders food industry, agrees that could be regarded as the cessor of the food panel commission.

T in print old Geneen's multinationa come from the literary late. Anthony Sampson in his *ITC: The Sovereign* e that the group's German idies helped the Axis effort, while in *The Com*

mon Millionaire Robert Heller is arguing that "assiduous public relations and assiduous accountancy" buoy up ITT's earnings per share and therefore the options of executives from Geneen downwards.

ITT yesterday fielded Jim Goodson, vice-president of ITT Consumer Products Europe, and Eric Bates, managing director of ITT Consumer Products UK, presumably in pursuit of "assiduous public relations". Goodson had yet to read Heller's book but said: "Look, I've got options to buy ITT stock at 44 and it's now at 17."

He had another story concerning multinational approaches to the war. In 1939 Goodson found himself in Glasgow after being torpedoed on board the SS Athene en route for the United States from a summer school at the Sorbonne.

Cunard couldn't say when they might get him on board another ship, so he volunteered for the RAF. By the time the United States came into the war he was flying Spitfires from Debden, Essex.

The USAF then made a take-over bid for the RAF's Americans. The pilots resisted, partly because they liked Spitfires and partly because they wanted to go on working with their British ground crews.

For a while, a compromise operated, under which Goodson and co flew Spitfires bearing USAF stars rather than RAF roundels, but serviced by the same ground crews who were however paid by the USAF.

When the USAF bid became unconditional, Goodson was switched over to Mustangs, a variant of the Spitfire, designed in England, manufactured by North American Aviation and put into production by a refugee engineer from Dornier.

Too few women

The Department of Employment well aware that 1975 is going to be The Year of the Woman, is concerned that only one in eight of the representatives of industry sitting on industrial tribunals is a woman.

By the end of next year the tribunals will be handling cases concerned with equal pay and sex discrimination at work, he sides the normal diet of unfair dismissals. Employment Secretary Michael Foot wants to appoint at least 50 more women members from the employers side and as many from the unions.

Foot thinks women are seriously under-represented on tribunals, and he wants to raise their numbers to about one in five of the total pool of tribunal members, enough to cover any situation where female interests are at stake.

Of the 50 nominations so far received from the Confederation of British Industry, only 10 are for women. One difficulty is that the DE's guidance is that nominees should be from middle management, with direct experience of personnel and industrial relations work, an area which is increasingly a male preserve.

Perhaps the TUC will do better when it gets round to putting forward its nominations. Now that the detested Industrial Relations Act is no more, unions are once again cooperating in industrial tribunals and they should have no difficulty in tapping the rich vein of female talent within their ranks.

Next year is, after all, United Nations International Women's Year and the industrial tribunal service is a useful alternative to throwing oneself under the Prime Minister's brougham. After all, the PM no longer has a brougham.

Leyland waves

George Turnbull's resignation as managing director of British Leyland over a year ago is still making waves. Dr John Wallace, BL's 46-year-old director of engineering research, is the latest of Turnbull's old team at Austin Morris, Longbridge, to leave the corporation.

Others included Filmer Paradise, director of sales, Harry Webster, technical director, and a month ago, Frank Tilson, Turnbull's managing director of body and assembly. Like Dr Wallace they were all upset by changes following Turnbull's departure.

Dr Wallace told Business Diary last night: "In the shake-up which followed George's resignation I was moved from facilities and production engineering director, a job which has quite a wide brief, to a pure

research post. My talents are much closer to manufacturing engineering and I felt too restricted."

"There has not been a dramatic row. We parted without malice and we shall be maintaining some business relationship."

He is now setting up on his own as a consultant with one eye on the need for expertise to build new manufacturing and assembly plants in the booming Middle East. But he is unlikely to follow his old chief to South Korea to help assist in setting up that country's first motor industry.

A week ago Dr Wallace surprised motor industry observers by suggesting that cheaper short-life cars containing recyclable components might replace corrosion-protected vehicles offering longer and longer lifespans. Would he have made such a controversial public statement if he had not already resigned?

"The short answer is 'yes'. I circulated that paper within the corporation nearly a year before I delivered it at the conference on corrosion where it attracted publicity", he said.

Traders on the New York Stock Exchange have been ordered to stop eating pizza and egg rolls while on the floor. The order, given without reason, only confirms that the days of the slap-up expense account lunch are at an end. They'll presumably just have to go back to chewing finger nails.

50 من الأصل

British Caledonian's case for retention as a second force airline

The inquiry which Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, recently set up into the future of British Civil aviation could well alter the whole shape of the industry when it reports back early in the new year.

It is certainly the most important look into airlines in this country since the committee under Sir Ronald Edwards came out with its conclusions in May 1969. Arising out of the Edwards findings, the Conservative Government which came into power the following year, established the principle of the private "second force" airline, with British Caledonian as the chosen instrument.

Now the fear among the private sector of the industry is that the Shore committee could dismantle that principle, giving the nationalized British Airways—the recently merged BEA and BOAC—a near monopoly of air services bearing the flag of this country.

The fact that Labour have been back in office for nearly 12 months but have done nothing to carry out these policies is doing nothing to still the fears of the British Caledonian management.

Lopping off the former state airline routes to West Africa and to Paris, would be a serious blow to British Caledonian, but is the management of the private airline plainly fears worse than that—to a complete takeover by British Airways.

It will also inevitably cite recent figures published by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations aviation body, which showed its productivity per man to be above that of workers inside the state corporation.

It is upon this question of the workforce of British Caledonian that the debate, and the long-term future of the airline, will most likely be decided. There is little doubt among most observers of the airline and political scenes that the Government would like to see the private airline rolled up into British Airways, both from doctrinaire grounds and on grounds that size in air transport is equated with strength in the world aviation market.

But if it does adopt this course would result in almost 5,000 jobs being lost among the present British Caledonian staff, with small chance of any of them gaining new posts in aviation. The most obvious new employer would be British Airways, but that airline is engaged in a strenuous process of slimming away the inflated numbers which the BEA-BOAC merger produced.



Adam Thomson, chairman of British Caledonian: apprehension at the possibility of a "British Goliath Airways".

Would the Government be prepared to make a decision which could throw 5,000 people out of work and make Gatwick, the British Caledonian base, depressed area?

It seems unlikely on the track record of the administration which earlier this year saved the Concorde supersonic airliner project from cancellation largely for fear of the effect on employment in the Bristol area, and which looks as if it may be moving towards a similar answer in the case of the Hawker Siddeley HS 146 feeder-liner programme.

Both managements of British Caledonian and British Airways agree that aviation ought to be taken out of politics. David Nicolson, chairman of the state carrier, said recently: "We need neither doctrinaire left-wing policies, nor doctrinaire right-wing policies now, but rather some good old doctrinaire management policies."

Each side realizes, however, that such a dream can never be attained while this and all other governments play regulatory roles on international routes, air fares and safety, and in many cases bail their state airlines out when they find themselves in financial troubles.

One solution to the dilemma which may come from the Shore committee and which could be, if not politically attractive, economically acceptable to the Cabinet is to split the spheres of influence of the two airlines, state and private enterprise, into two separate sections, as is the case in France and Canada.

Under such a scheme the two British operators would no longer fly routes against one another, so overcoming the objection that the overall British effort was being dissipated.

British Caledonian would be put out to live or die by its own commercial enterprise, while a further advantage of the scheme to government is that it would save fuel.

The great disadvantage to the travelling public would be that they would have no choice of British airline on international routes. But to prevent the airlines becoming lazy in a monopoly situation, there could be a series of route tariers.

If it sank below one of the tariers, the airline with the licence could be withdrawn so that its competitor could take over and show what it could do.

Arthur Reed

It is upon this question of the workforce of British Caledonian that the debate, and the long-term future of the airline, will most likely be decided. There is little doubt among most observers of the airline and political scenes that the Government would like to see the private airline rolled up into British Airways, both from doctrinaire grounds and on grounds that size in air transport is equated with strength in the world aviation market.

As earlier, it must take into account the social needs of those engaged in the industry and also some new factors, such as the multiple use of land and the need to avoid or reduce environmental pollution.

On structure, it must be clear that the social needs of the farming unit, geography, soil and changing farming practice stand in the way of that. The Danes organized an ideal farm structure for the 1930s and 1940s which is hopelessly out of gear for the 1970s.

Sir Frank is of the opinion that flexibility and efficiency will be greatest if there is deliberate encouragement of moderate-sized mixed farms in private and family hands.

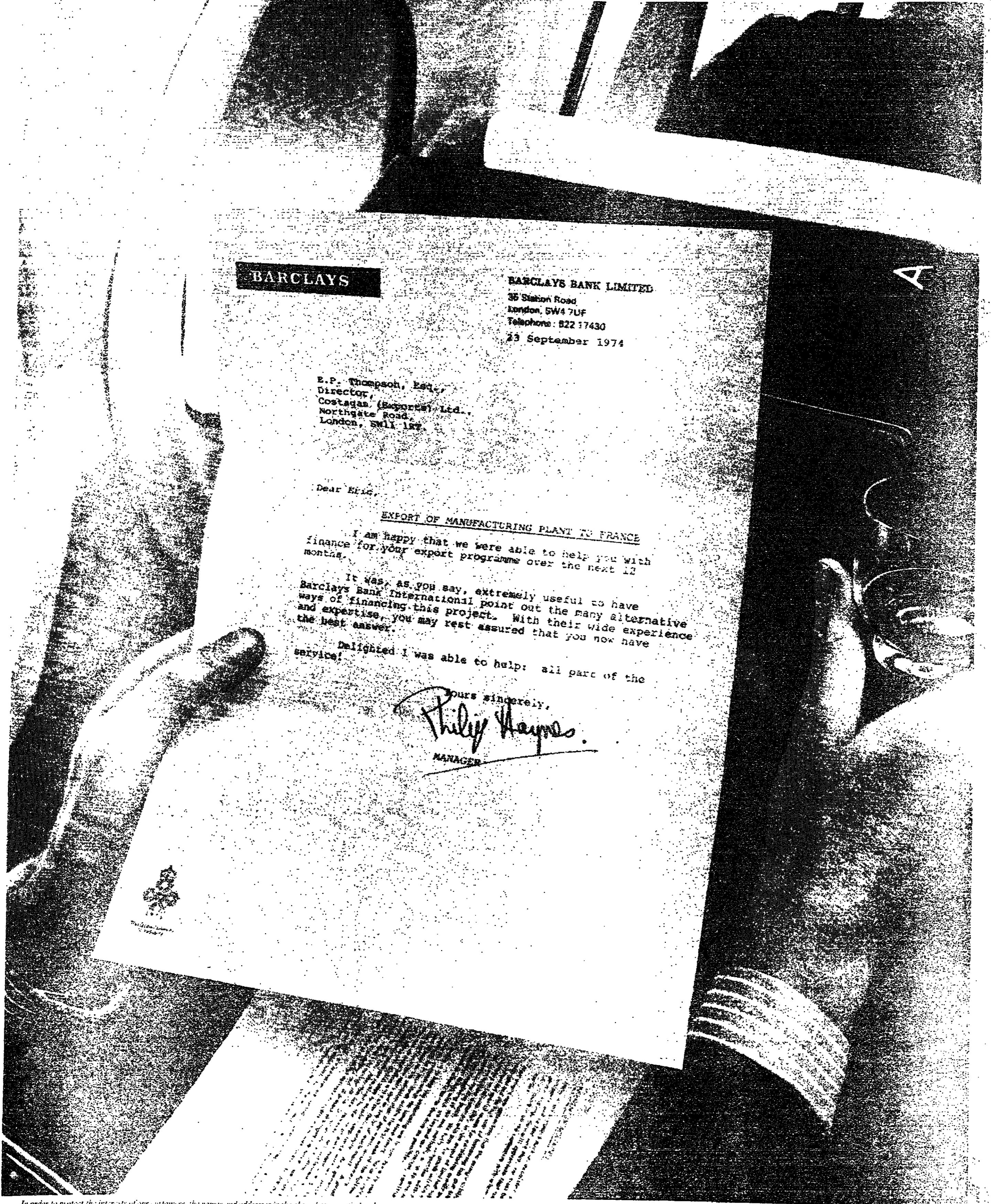
On livestock farms the ministry survey has disclosed a fonder situation varying from barely adequate to desperate.

One can only hope that measures taken to meet the emergencies of this season and the next will not be such as to prejudice longer-term prospects. Of this, in our present policy disarray, there can be no certainty.

Francis Pym's suggestion of an all-party select committee might take some of the heat out of current controversy, but consideration of long-term policy is not a field in which such committees have generally distinguished themselves. They tend to concentrate more on past mistakes and misdemeanours than on new departures. Others beside politicians need calling in here.

recommendations were attempted.

The material on which it



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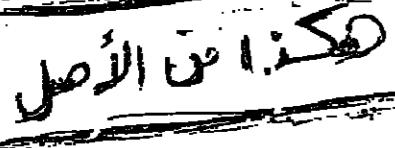
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Rather cutbacks forecast by German car industry

London, Nov. 26.—Low demand continued weak exports will force further production cutbacks in months, the West Motor Industry Assoc. said.

Production of cars and commercial vehicles in October per cent over September 25,000, largely reflecting extra working days, 22 per cent less than October 1973. Car producers' 24 per cent below 1973, and lorry output down.

First 10 months this year vehicle production fell 20 per cent in the same 1973 period, being a 22 per cent decrease in cars and 18 per cent in lorries.

Car exports last month were 10 per cent higher than in October, but 31 per cent

down on October 1973. In the first 10 months vehicle exports were 18.5 per cent below the same 1973 period.—Reuter.

More jobs go: Photographic group Rollei-Werke Franke & Heidecke may make up to 1,000 of its 2,500 German workforce redundant, compared with earlier estimates of 500 to 800, informed sources said yesterday after a meeting of the company's supervisory board.

A decision on how to overcome the firm's problems will be taken at a further supervisory board meeting, they added. The redundancies will depend on the solution chosen.

Rollei, which has been affected by falling home and export demand, also employs about 5,500 in Singapore, Hessische Landesbank and Norddeutsche Landesbank each holds 40 per cent in the company.—Reuter.

Credit Bank granted car's moratorium

London, Nov. 26.—The Inter-Credit Bank has been given a one-year moratorium, October 9, the date of its formation.

The decision to grant the sum application was yesterday by a Geneva court, in accordance with the resolution of the Swiss Banking Commission, which investigated the state bank's finances. A committee, in this case a firm of accountants appointed by the authorities, will hold the reins of the bank's control during the period.

CB, which came into the 24 September with reported \$8m loss by the Israeli-owned Corporation, was 15 years ago by Dr. Rosenbaum. It is said to have £30m in deposits, capital and reserves put up.

Last month, the Landesbank, Giro-Bank (Helaba) asked the under the terms of the "share transfer contract" to purchase the 36.4 per cent equity it held. In arranging its withdrawal from

Japan keeps interest rates high

Japan has followed the United States and West Germany in taking measures aimed at holding interest rates. Mr. Taro Yamada, Minister of Finance, said today: "We must maintain our currencies for some time to come." "We cannot change until we see the end of the war against inflation."

Takagi said the Japanese budget for the current fiscal year, ending March 31, 1975, would be 2.099,000m yen, up 25.7 per cent. The supplementary budget is in full by revenue surpluses in the previous fiscal year, and by higher than expected tax collections in the one.

Takagi, speaking at a luncheon for businessmen, said guarded optimism near-term trends in the Japanese economy.

Takagi said there were no changes in Japan's favorable export trend in the near term, although, he said, various industries were not operating overseas sites in longer term. Japan's imports would continue to be sluggish for some time.—AP-DJ.

Business appointments

John Laing has new top finance director

Denis Turner has become finance director of John and Sons. Mr. Campion Carter has joined the board of J. E. Lesser (Construction) as design director.

Paul Girolami, financial director of Glaxo Holdings, has reported to National Westminster Bank's Inner London Board.

John Stainforth has joined Hill Insurance as a manager. Clifford Nancarrow has been a director of Ball-Thermos.

Jeffrey Howles is to become managing director of the new Group and chief executive of the Group. Michael Aldin is joining the new group taxation manager.

Andrew McLaren has become managing director of Foster Turner.

Jan Baden has been a director of Alderman Industries Group.

A. S. Perloff has been reappointed chairman and Mr. W. G. Green following the retirement of Mr. D. N. Lever, who became honorary president. Borro and Mr. B. S. Simpson are additional directors.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Valor caught between consumer restraint and higher wages

By Peter Walnwright

Valor, the cooker and heater group, have stumbled. In the 28 weeks to October 11 last, pre-tax profits fell by 38 per cent to £314,438, while sales slumped 20 per cent to £11.8m.

The growth case for Valor is ambiguous but not unconvincing. Mr. Michael Montague, chairman, says that the immediate future is uncertain "during what may prove to be an exceptional year".

He adds that they do not expect a better second half year. But that intentionally leaves open the outside chance that it may be no worse than the first six months.

It seems that the growing tightness of consumer spending

has now finished with the triggering of eight thresholds in addition to basic wage agreements. The group was unable to keep its own retail prices in step.

The interim forecast is

more optimistic, but not unconvincing. Mr. Michael Montague, chairman, says that the immediate future is uncertain "during what may prove to be an exceptional year".

He adds that they do not expect a better second half year. But that intentionally leaves open the outside chance that it may be no worse than the first six months.

It seems that the growing tightness of consumer spending

Edgar Allen expect even stronger performance

By Tony May

A substantial advance in earnings was forecast for Airfix Industries this year, but at the net level, at any rate, the running will have to be made in the second half.

Mr. Ralph Ehrmann, the chairman, reports that orders and production in every division

are at record levels and are not restricted by any shortage of either raw materials or finance.

Commenting on Budget measures, Mr. Ehrmann says "at the indicated tax saving relating to improved stock concessions will practically eliminate the tax liability of £634,000 which was due to be paid on January 1 for 1973-74.

Airfix look to stronger second half for restoration of margins

By Tony May

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Hepworth turnover shows 24 pc advance this year

J. Hepworth's turnover so far this year has increased by 24 per cent which, when converted to constant prices, still shows a real advance over last year. Mr. R. Chadwick, chairman, writes in his review.

Continued expansion requires money, he adds, and at current rates of inflation much more money is needed merely to finance existing trade. The group is more fortunate than most with "extremely helpful" bankers and there is also the backing of assets worth almost 50p a share on the balance sheet and based mainly on 1969 property values.

The overdraft rose to £6.2m at the end of August and this will continue in the current period in line with inflation. But it is well covered by arrangements already made, Mr. Chadwick says. Though in times like these a large cash "bump" would be ideal, a large property "bumper" is very gratifying.

Ldn Interstate Bank gets new German partner

London, Nov. 26.—London Interstate Bank, formed in 1971 as an international consortium bank, has joined forces with Hamburgische Landesbank, Girozentrale.

The capital of London Interstate has been increased to allow Hamburgische to acquire 42.99% £1 ordinary shares, representing a holding of 13.89 per cent—equal to that of the other partners. In addition, it will take up subordinated debentures worth DM2.45m.

The influential Hamburgische,

which has assets exceeding

£1.25m, will play a significant part in broadening the scope of London Interstate's operations on the Continent.

At a statement, the consortium leaders said the DM100m would ensure payment of the second half of the DM210m contribution. Herr Gerling has promised to pay into a special fund needed to ensure settlement quotas of 45 per cent for the domestic banks, 55 per cent for foreign banks and local authority creditors and 65 per cent for non-bank creditors.

However, the consortium set

three conditions on its offer:

First, Zurich Versicherungs-

Gesellschaft must buy a 51 per

cent stake in the total capital of the Gerling Insurance Group for an immediate DM100m pay-

ment.

Second, the consortium

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1973/74		Int. Gross High Low Stock		Div Yld		Gross High Low Company		Div Yld Price Chg'ge pence % P/E		Gross High Low Company		Div Yld Price Chg'ge pence % P/E		Gross High Low Company		Div Yld Price Chg'ge pence % P/E		Gross High Low Company		Div Yld Price Chg'ge pence % P/E																	
1973/74		High Low Company		Price Chg'ge		High Low Company		Price Chg'ge		High Low Company		Price Chg'ge		High Low Company		Price Chg'ge		High Low Company		Price Chg'ge																	
BRITISH FUNDS																																					
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL																																					
A - B																																					
56	524	Treas	66	1975	800	..	6.062	11.522	..	35	AAH	35	11.4	21.7	2.5	10	Cransleigh G/P	4	11.26	2.8	10	32	Charterland														
57	525	Treas	67	1975	801	..	1.031	10.822	..	35	AC Cars	35	1.7	4.6	2.0	24	Creston Hldgs	24	28	15.8	4.8	24	320	Amal Colls													
58	526	Sarnings	33	1973-75	55	..	3.158	10.404	..	35	AC Electronic	35	1.5	4.6	2.0	17	Creston Micro	17	23	6.7	2.5	17	321	Anglo Am Gold													
59	527	Treas	68	1975	802	..	2.029	10.705	..	35	ACE	35	1.4	3.5	2.0	24	Crown Corp	24	23	6.7	2.5	24	322	Anglo Am Inv													
60	528	Treas	69	1975	803	..	2.029	10.705	..	35	ACE	35	1.4	3.5	2.0	24	Crown Micro	24	23	6.7	2.5	24	323	Anglo Am Inv													
61	529	Treas	70	1975	804	..	4.045	6.021	..	35	ACE Research	35	1.0	10.8	5.2	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	324	Anglo Trans													
62	530	Treas	71	1975	805	..	10.712	11.619	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.0	12.0	5.2	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	325	Anglo Trans													
63	531	Treas	72	1975	806	..	5.560	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.2	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	326	Anglo Trans													
64	532	Treas	73	1975	807	..	3.380	8.805	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	327	Anglo Trans													
65	533	Treas	74	1975	808	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	328	Anglo Trans													
66	534	Treas	75	1975	809	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	329	Anglo Trans													
67	535	Treas	76	1975	810	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	330	Anglo Trans													
68	536	Treas	77	1975	811	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	331	Anglo Trans													
69	537	Treas	78	1975	812	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	332	Anglo Trans													
70	538	Treas	79	1975	813	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	333	Anglo Trans													
71	539	Treas	80	1975	814	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	334	Anglo Trans													
72	540	Treas	81	1975	815	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	335	Anglo Trans													
73	541	Treas	82	1975	816	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	336	Anglo Trans													
74	542	Treas	83	1975	817	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	337	Anglo Trans													
75	543	Treas	84	1975	818	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	338	Anglo Trans													
76	544	Treas	85	1975	819	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	339	Anglo Trans													
77	545	Treas	86	1975	820	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	340	Anglo Trans													
78	546	Treas	87	1975	821	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	341	Anglo Trans													
79	547	Treas	88	1975	822	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	342	Anglo Trans													
80	548	Treas	89	1975	823	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	343	Anglo Trans													
81	549	Treas	90	1975	824	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	344	Anglo Trans													
82	550	Treas	91	1975	825	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	345	Anglo Trans													
83	551	Treas	92	1975	826	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	346	Anglo Trans													
84	552	Treas	93	1975	827	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	347	Anglo Trans													
85	553	Treas	94	1975	828	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	348	Anglo Trans													
86	554	Treas	95	1975	829	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5	19	Crown Ridge	19	23	2.6	1.5	19	349	Anglo Trans													
87	555	Treas	96	1975	830	..	1.161	11.780	..	35	ACEF Hldgs	35	1.2	12.4	4.5																						

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DOMESTIC SITUATIONS

KEEPER FOR CHARMING COUNTRY MANSION IN SURREY

AND PRESENTABLE HOUSEKEEPER is required to household and cook, and supervise the maids. The house is a large, four-storey, detached, 25 roomed residence and stands in its own grounds of 25 acres with gardens, swimming pool, tennis court and stables. Queen Anne house but has been extended, and completely to a very high standard.

It is expected that this appointment will have a flat rate of £1,000 per month and colour television and cost of keeping. Salary will be excellent depending on experience & if a lady accepts this appointment with her husband, employed by the estate as a chauffeur, handyman or

so is engaged for this appointment will have a flat rate of £1,000 per month and colour television and cost of keeping.

For details, telephone 01-584 1448 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., 9 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. each day or write to:

25 Broadwalk House, St. Hyde Park Gate, London, S.W.7.

or 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Bank Holidays.

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12.05 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. on Friday.

12.05 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. on Saturday.

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